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Japan

SSC Talks End Without Commitment From Tokyo

OW1004091892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0854 GMT
10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. officials concluded two days of talks here Friday on the prospects for Japanese financial participation in the multibillion dollar Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) project, without any concrete commitment by Japan, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Officials said the first round of joint working group talks on the physics project focused less on U.S. financial expectations of Japan, put at a fifth of the estimated 8.2 billion dollar cost, than on the academic significance of the project and its technical feasibility. They said that concrete discussions on how much money Japan might contribute would have to await Japan's being more fully convinced of the project's scientific worth.

A Japanese Finance Ministry representative said at the meeting that the ministry would carry out its own SSC cost assessment and analysis, they said.

The scientific instrument would be used to probe the origins of matter by causing protons to collide at speeds approaching that of light in a gigantic ring built in an 86.5 kilometer oval underground tunnel south of Dallas, Texas.

Officials said the group decided to establish a subpanel to meet twice on specifics between May and June before the group itself reconvenes in Washington in late July.

The global partnership action plan announced during U.S. President George Bush's visit to Japan in January called for establishment of the group to examine "technical and other aspects of the SSC" and consider how to facilitate Japan's participation.

Officials said the Japanese Government and scientists here would have to arrive at a consensus on the project's significance and viability before proceeding with talks on the extent of participation. Russia, China, India, and South Korea are among the other countries expected to join in.

Officials said William Happier, director of energy research with the Department of Energy, who led the U.S. side in the talks, in briefing Japan on progress on the SSC's construction, said that digging of the tunnel has already commenced at the project site in Texas.

In response to Japanese queries as to how the project is perceived in the U.S., the Americans said most members of Congress, both Republican and Democratic, support it. The U.S. delegation also responded to a list of Japanese queries on technical issues related to the project that was presented to Washington three weeks ago.

The Japanese delegation was led by Takaya Suto, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Scientific and

Technological Affairs Division. Also represented were the Ministries of Finance, International Trade and Industry, and Education, as well as the Science and Technology Agency. Private-sector scientists sat in as observers. The Japanese scientific community is reportedly divided over the advisability of Japanese financial participation in the project.

Miyazawa Interviewed on Economy, U.S. Relations

OW1004101792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0940 GMT
10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday that Japan will not scale down its development aid programs, despite reduced income from taxes due to the faltering economy, a Foreign Ministry official said. Miyazawa made the comment in an interview with THE WALL STREET JOURNAL a day after the Diet enacted the fiscal 1992 budget which earmarks 952.2 billion yen for official development assistance, a 7.8 percent hike from the previous year.

The premier also paid tribute to the United States for its world leadership, and said that he did not regard recent sharp verbal exchanges as a serious problem, the official said. Japanese-U.S. relations are extremely close, and it is not unusual that the free exchange of views may at times cause friction, Miyazawa was quoted saying. Miyazawa's criticism earlier this year of the work ethic of U.S. college graduates who prefer to work in what he implied was the quick-money atmosphere of Wall Street rather than in manufacturing triggered a volatile debate about the Japan-U.S. relationship.

Asked to define the ingredients of global leadership, Miyazawa listed military, economic, and political components, as well as cultural and religious values, which he defined as elements of "soft leadership." The U.S. remains strong in all the areas, while Japan has no aim of acquiring leadership in the military field, he was quoted saying.

Miyazawa said, however, that despite efforts by both sides, Japan's trade surplus with the U.S. is unlikely to see a sudden dramatic reduction because Japanese exports in areas such as machinery and capital goods are vital to the U.S. economy. Japan has a chronic 40 billion dollar trade surplus with the U.S., 75 percent of which is attributed to motor vehicles and auto parts.

FTC To Ask U.S. To Revoke Antitrust Decision

OW0904135492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1320 GMT
9 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) will ask the United States to rescind its recent decision to extend antitrust laws to overseas businesses alleged to have unfairly blocked access for U.S. exports, FTC officials said Thursday.

"The U.S. decision is quite regrettable as it might undermine international laws," a commission official said.

The U.S. Justice Department announced a new antitrust standard last week which enables it to act against a range of collusive practices by foreign companies in their home markets.

Currently, U.S. antitrust laws can be applied to foreign businesses only if they are found hurting the interests of American consumers. The U.S. policy shift is widely seen in Tokyo as signaling Washington's frustration at what it views as Japan's lax antitrust enforcement, though Japan has steadily beefed up penalties against exclusive business practices here.

The FTC officials said any anticompetitive business practice should in principle be dealt with by the antitrust authorities of the country involved. They said FTC head Setsuo Umezawa will convey Japan's displeasure to James F. Rill, the head of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division, who is scheduled to visit Japan to attend a Japan-U.S. antitrust seminar next week.

U.S. Air Force Assigns Team for PCB Cleanup

*OW1004060692 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese
9 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[Text] It was revealed that Kadena Airbase was also troubled by PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) contamination. To deal with the problem, the U.S. Air Force on Okinawa has assigned a special team from the 18th Facilities Group for the task of removing PCB contaminated soil, as confirmed by one of our reporters on 8 April. Until recently, the U.S. military maintained that "personnel of the facilities or regions would carry out the task" of removing contaminated soil, and did not make it clear as to whether these personnel were U.S. military or Japanese. Moreover, investigation by the Zenchuro [All Japan Garrison Forces Labor Union] revealed that before the PCB contamination issue came to light, Japanese personnel were employed in the task without any safety instructions.

PCB storage is located in a section of the warehouse complex to the south side of the runway, designated by a posted sign that says "18th Facilities Group Project, PCB Storage." The area is fenced in and under close guard. The U.S. military disclosed that "PCB leakage accidents occurred in 1986," and, thus, it has been confirmed that contamination removal operations have continued since then. So far, the U.S. military has refrained from publicizing the exact location of the contaminated area and the level of contamination. However, the removal operations seem to be in the final stages.

At the time of the first reported leakages, insulating oil containing PCB leaked from transformers and permeated the soil. Even now the task of digging up this contaminated soil with machinery and packing them into drums is still being conducted. Soil has been dug up in a relatively large area, and U.S. military personnel engaged in the task are heavily protected with white protective garments, masks, gloves, and helmets. Many drums were seen left in open-air storage.

According to Zenchuro investigations, there are presently 500 drums containing contaminated soil left in open-air storage in the aforementioned area. Also, the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] prefectural headquarters has announced confirmation of the storage of oil containing a high concentration of PCB in 56 areas in nine facilities on U.S. marine bases.

According to those concerned, the management was rather careless, as Japanese personnel were employed in such tasks as removing contaminated soil without being supplied with safety gear and using bare hands in changing transformer oil.

Although the U.S. military reported to the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] that "PCB-containing insulating oil was leaked on Kadena Airbase, but there was no contamination of underground water," it did not reveal any information as to who was engaged in the removal of contaminated soil. According to Zenchuro, removal operations have been conducted only by U.S. military personnel ever since the issue surfaced.

Zenchuro made the following demands to the prefectural government and the DFAA:

1. Supply complete information on Japanese personnel who were involved in the task.
2. Special medical checkups on these personnel.
3. Supply information on areas within the military facilities where PCB is being used.

Citizen Exchange With Russia Planned in Kurils

*OW1004110392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1003 GMT
10 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Japan and Russia agreed Friday to launch this month a scheme allowing citizens connected with four disputed islands to make exchange visits without obtaining visas, a government spokesman said. Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara said Russia would send 20 residents of the islands to Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido for a six-day visit April 22.

The visitors are to arrive at Nemuro port by ship and will visit Sapporo and the town of Nakashibetsu, which is near the disputed islands, Ishihara said. About 30 Japanese who lived on the islands prior to Japan's defeat in World War II are to depart for a weeklong tour of Kunashiri, Etorofu, and Shikotan on May 11, the spokesman said. They will not visit the Habomai group of islets, which has no civilian inhabitants.

Japan and the then Soviet Union agreed to the exchange last October but the plans were delayed following the disintegration of the Soviet Union in December. The visits were proposed by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev when he visited Japan in April 1991.

The islands were seized at the end of World War II by the Soviet Red Army, which evicted tens of thousands of Japanese residents. Japan has said the territorial dispute

must be resolved before it can sign a peace treaty with Russia or offer full-fledged economic assistance.

Bridge To Link Hokkaido, Kunashiri Proposed

*OW0904034892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0329 GMT
09 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—A leading Japanese bridge builder unveiled a plan Thursday to build a bridge over the Nemuro Strait between Hokkaido and Kunashiri Island, one of a group of islands held by Russia and claimed by Japan.

Kawada Industries Inc. said it has studied the feasibility of the project and drawn up a blueprint. It will shortly propose the plan to the government and the construction industry.

The company estimates the project will cost some 150 billion to 200 billion yen.

Kunashiri is the closest to Hokkaido of the four islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai islets—taken over by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

For the project to be realized, a solution would have to be found to the various problems concerning the borderline between the two countries, a Kawada official said.

The situation for construction will also vary, depending on whether or not Russia returns the four islands to Japan.

"It's a large-scale project which cannot be carried out by Kawada alone," he said, adding the company is seeking to make it a national project.

According to Kawada's basic plan, the bridge would be about 16 kilometers long, running over the Nemuro Strait between Notsuke in Nemuro, Hokkaido, and the closest tip of Kunashiri.

The company believes the strait is suitable for the plan, because it has few military ships passing through it, as its depth of some 10 to 15 meters is too shallow for such ships.

Russia To Replace Valves in Nuclear Reactors

*OW0904090392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0824 GMT
9 Apr 92*

[Text] Yokohama, April 9 KYODO—All suspect valves at Russian nuclear power plants similar to the one which leaked radioactive gas in March will be replaced, Russia's Ministry of Atomic Energy First Deputy Minister Viktor A. Sidorenko said Thursday.

Sidorenko told a press conference at the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum in Yokohama that the leak occurred after sections of a valve regulating the volume of coolant in the graphite-moderated RBMK-type reactor broke off, blocking the flow and causing a rise in coolant temperature. Experts agree the wear on the valve occurred several years ago, indicating a possible planning defect.

There are 16 of the RBMK-type reactors in the former Soviet Union, all similar to the one at the faulty Chernobyl plant where an explosion and fire spread a cloud of radiation over nearby East European countries in April 1986. Fourteen of the 16 are built in the same way as at the Leningradskaya reactor on the Gulf of Finland 80 kilometers from St. Petersburg in northwest Russia where radioactive gas escaped into the atmosphere March 24. The leak raised international concern over the long-term safety of many of the nuclear power stations in former member countries of the Soviet Union.

Germany's Topfer Proposes CIS Nuclear Panel

*OW1004124692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1128 GMT
10 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Visiting German Environmental Minister Klaus Topfer on Friday proposed a working group among major economic powers to discuss nuclear plant safety in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In talks with International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe, Topfer proposed that nuclear experts from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations meet several times before this summer's G-7 summit meeting to hammer out a consensus on the matter.

Watanabe agreed with Topfer on the "urgency" of working out measures concerning nuclear safety in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Eastern Europe and that the G-7 summit should take up the matter, a MITI [Ministry of International Trade and Industry] official said. However, he failed to make his stance clear about the proposed G-7 panel, the official said.

The two ministers also agreed on the need for greater international cooperation in making nuclear power plants more acceptable to the general public.

"The atmosphere surrounding nuclear power generation is very tough, despite its merits as a stable source of energy," Watanabe was quoted as saying. "We need to join hands (to boost public confidence in it)."

IAEA Urges Plutonium Control Organization

*OW1004020392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0126 GMT
10 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) called Friday for the setting up of an organization to control an expected oversupply of plutonium caused by the dismantling of nuclear warheads.

IAEA Deputy Director General William Dircks told the 25th Annual Conference of the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum in Yokohama that the amount of plutonium recovered from reprocessing spent nuclear fuel from the world's nuclear power plants between 1990 [word indistinct] 2000 will exceed needs by at least 110 tons.

But Dircks said the actual amount could exceed this because estimates for the rest of the century did not include the more than 200 tons of plutonium to come from dismantled nuclear missiles following post-cold war disarmament in the United States and the former Soviet Union.

Dircks said monitoring the dismantling of nuclear weapons and ensuring the safe management and peaceful use of plutonium, which can also be diverted to military uses, is an issue of major international concern.

He called for the setting up of an organization aimed at exchanging information among the international community and the compilation of a plan for the joint storage and disposal of plutonium.

The IAEA estimates the world's capacity to dispose of spent nuclear fuel at processing plants by 2000 at an annual 6,900 tons, and the amount of plutonium recovered at 25 tons.

Ministry Welcomes Suchinda as New Thai Premier

OW1004082892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0742 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Japan welcomes Thailand's recent elections and the appointment as prime minister of the general who led last year's coup against the former democratically elected government, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

"We welcome the selection of the new prime minister. We wish to maintain and develop our good bilateral relations with Thailand under his leadership," spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said.

Hanabusa said Japan does not see any violation of democratic principles in Tuesday's appointment of Gen. Suchinda Kraprayoon as the country's new prime minister, since proper parliamentary and constitutional procedures were followed after the elections two weeks ago.

A Foreign Ministry source said Japan accepts the choice of Suchinda "since the Thai people, including the King of Thailand, believe he is the most suitable person to assume the premiership at such (an) important juncture."

Suchinda, former Supreme Military Commander, was selected to be premier by a coalition of five pro-military parties after the withdrawal of their original choice, parliamentarian Narong Wongwan.

Narong dropped out of the race amid controversy surrounding United States and Australian accusations linking him with narcotics trafficking.

Some Thais opposed to Suchinda's selection have charged that the general was intended to be chosen premier all along and that the scandal-tainted Narong was only put forward as a ploy.

Tokyo Plans To Protest ROK TV Drama Scene

OW0904113392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1109 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—Japan plans to protest a South Korean television drama depicting an attempted assassination of Emperor Akihito using actual footage from his 1990 enthronement parade, a government spokesman said Friday.

"The broadcast of a scene showing an assassination attempt of the emperor hurts the feelings of the Japanese people," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference.

He said the government will express its views to the Seoul government through diplomatic channels and may ask that "self-restraint" be exercised during further broadcasts of the commercially produced drama.

Korean Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. (MBC-TV) on Monday aired a scene from "The Kingdom of Anger" in which the lead actor fires a pistol from the roadside as Emperor Akihito passes by in a motorcade.

The drama, which used footage from the enthronement parade in Tokyo in November 1990, was the first installment in a 16-part series being aired twice weekly.

The contents of later installments were not immediately known.

Miyazawa Telephones Britain's Major on Victory

OW1004122592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1155 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa telephoned his congratulations to British Prime Minister John Major for his victory in national elections Friday, a Foreign Ministry official said.

"The result is because of your personality, integrity, and trustworthiness," Miyazawa was quoted saying.

Major told Miyazawa he plans to announce a new cabinet within two days, the official said.

The two premiers said they looked forward to their next scheduled meeting in July, in advance of the annual economic summit of seven major industrialized nations in Germany.

Automakers Cancel British Export Agreement

OW1004103592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0946 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—The Japanese and British automobile industries have decided to abolish their agreement to limit Japanese car exports to Britain at the end of this year, industry sources said Friday. The sources said the signing of a new agreement on automobile trade between Japan and the European Community (EC) last year had made the bilateral accord worthless.

They said the decision was reached at a meeting held in Britain on Thursday between the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association and Britain's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Under an accord reached in 1982, Japanese automakers have voluntarily limited their car shipments to Britain to a maximum of 11 percent of the market annually. The Japan-EC accord limits Japanese automobile exports to the 12-nation grouping to about 1.23 million vehicles a year from 1993 through 1999. The regulation is designed to cushion European automakers from Japanese competition during the transitional period of EC market integration.

At Thursday's meeting, the sources said, representatives of both sides forecast demand for passenger cars in the British market this year at 1.75 million vehicles, up about 10 percent over last year, with the Japanese share amounting to 11 percent or 190,000 cars.

Tokyo To Ban Aircraft, Parts Exports to Libya

OW0904141392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1352 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—Japan will ban exports of aircraft and aircraft parts to Libya as part of its sanctions to be imposed on the nation for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight, government officials said Thursday. The government will officially decide at a cabinet meeting Friday to revise part of its foreign exchange control and export trade control ordinances, making the sanctions effective April 22, they said.

The revision will include the adoption of a licensing system for the supply of technology and insurance for Libyan aircraft, and requiring approval for the export of aircraft and aircraft parts to Libya, they said. The revision would effectively ban aircraft trade with Libya, they said.

They said the sanctions against Libya are in line with a recent United Nations Security Council resolution. The U.N. sanctions, to take effect April 15, would prohibit flights to Libya and ban arms exports to the nation.

The U.N. council has demanded that Libya surrender two suspects accused of planting a bomb on the Pan Am jet, which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

Indian Finance Minister Singh Urges Speedy Aid

OW1004112992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1035 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh called on Japan on Friday to extend India quick-disbursing loans to facilitate its economic reform program, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The officials said Singh, who arrived in Japan on Wednesday on a five-day visit, made the calls in separate meetings with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

Singh was quoted as asking Miyazawa for loans along the lines of those extended to India by Japan during the Persian Gulf war that helped offset the war's adverse economic impact on the Indian economy.

He said the money is urgently needed as India wants its economic reform program to reach full steam in two to three years, a plan that is conditional on sufficient foreign currency reserves.

Singh also asked Japan to work behind the scenes so the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank will also extend India timely and significant amounts of assistance.

The officials said Miyazawa responded that the Japanese Government and business circles are impressed at the ambitious free-market, pro-investment, and austere budget reforms initiated by India since last year.

He said Japan has been extending India as much assistance as possible and promised to consider continued assistance that reflects Japan's optimistic evaluation of India's economic reforms.

Singh passed Miyazawa a letter from Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narashima Rao, in which Rao said he is looking forward to an early visit to Japan to explain the measures his government has taken since it came to power nine months ago, the officials said.

Rao told reporters in India recently he wants to visit Japan in June to commemorate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Officials quoted Miyazawa as saying that in considering the two countries' four decades of ties, he personally cannot forget the friendly stance India took toward Japan in the aftermath of World War II.

Meeting with Watanabe, Singh said India is making earnest efforts to attract Japanese direct investment and they would be greatly facilitated if the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) were to provide a higher ceiling for export insurance.

Ministry Announces Relief Funds to Ecuador

OW1004014592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0057 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Japan will extend 100,000 dollars in emergency relief funds to Ecuador to help it deal with the aftermath of massive flooding in mid-March, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Officials said the money is intended to alleviate the suffering of victims of flooding which resulted from torrential rains in the central coastal area of Ecuador.

The floods caused at least 22 deaths and seriously affected the lives of some 110,000 people, inflicting considerable damage to dwellings and other structures, farming fields, roads, and shrimp farms, they said.

The Japanese aid is in response to an appeal by the Government of Ecuador for international assistance, the officials said.

Miyazawa To Intensify Push for UN PKO Bill

*OW0904135292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1317 GMT
9 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—Buoyed by passage of the fiscal 1992 national budget, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will step up efforts to muster opposition parties' endorsement for a bill to send Japanese peacekeepers abroad, Diet sources said Thursday. However, Miyazawa faces an uphill battle to have the bill approved by the Diet, due to the opposition's criticism of what it sees as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's half-hearted efforts to clear out money-dominated politics, the sources said.

If approved by the Diet, the bill would empower the government to send a contingent of ground forces abroad to help in United Nations' peacekeeping operations [PKO]. It would mark the first dispatch of Japanese forces abroad since Japan's World War II surrender in 1945.

Miyazawa wants to secure passage of the bill by June 21, the last day of the current regular Diet session, the sources said.

The opposition may take the peacekeeping bill hostage to press its demand that former State Minister Fumio Abe be summoned before the Diet for his alleged role in the Kyowa Co. bribery scandal, they said. Abe, a former close ally of Miyazawa, is under indictment on charges of accepting 90 million yen from Kyowa, a defunct steel-frame maker, in exchange for his influence in boosting the company's business in public works projects.

The No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) has already threatened to use delaying tactics if the LDP tries to call a vote on the peacekeeping bill, saying it tramples on the spirit of the pacifist Constitution. The Constitution bans the use or threat of force as a means of settling international disputes.

An SDP official said, "Our party's legislators may wage physical resistance (against the bill)." His remark has aroused speculation the SDP may try to slow parliamentary proceedings to a snail's pace.

Meanwhile, a great majority of LDP lawmakers are reluctant to agree on a recent proposal from Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe to dissolve the lower chamber and call a general election to have voters judge the bill, the sources said.

Many of them are apparently worried a general election might cut the LDP's strength due to the public's anger over the Kyowa and Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandals. In the latter, many legislators allegedly accepted cash from the parcel-delivery firm, they said.

A senior official of Miyazawa's LDP faction reacted angrily Thursday to Watanabe's proposal.

"The authority to dissolve the House of Representatives comes under the jurisdiction of Miyazawa," he said. "A cabinet minister should not raise the issue arbitrarily."

Miyazawa is also facing staunch dissent within the ruling party to his proposal to correct the large disparity in voter representation in constituencies of the powerful lower house, Diet sources said.

Vows To Do 'Utmost' To Enact Bill

*OW1004125392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT
10 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa vowed Friday to do his utmost to pass through the Diet a bill to enable Japan to send troops abroad on U.N. peacekeeping missions, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) officials said.

The prime minister made the commitment in an hour-long meeting over lunch with a group of 22 first-elected Diet members of his party at the prime minister's official residence, the officials said. Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe recently suggested that Miyazawa should dissolve the House of Representatives if the peacekeeping bill fails to gain approval.

Miyazawa also told the LDP lawmakers that he sees no need for a further reduction in the country's official discount rate, the officials said. The Bank of Japan lowered its key lending rate by 0.75 percentage point to 3.75 percent per annum April 1 to augment an emergency package adopted by the government the day before to boost the faltering Japanese economy.

Tokyo 'Unlikely' To Face G-7 Stocks Pressure

*OW1004102592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1010 GMT
10 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Japan is unlikely to face pressures from other members of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries to take additional stock market-boosting measures at their forthcoming meeting, a top-ranking Finance Ministry official said Friday. The official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified, said that increasing domestic demand will not help much in reducing Japan's resurging trade surplus.

The official showed skepticism about the speculation that Japan's weak stock market will be a major topic at the G-7 meeting of finance ministers and central bankers to be held in Washington late this month. He said the effects of Japan's recent package of measures to stimulate the economy, as well as a recent interest rate cut, will be evident in the coming months.

"We will explain these steps to our G-7 partners," he said, adding Japan is unlikely to be pressed to do more.

"Are they going to tell Japan to do this or to do that? Well, I don't know, but it's not likely," he said.

Asked about the growing trade surplus, the official claimed it is not due to Japan's mismanagement of the macroeconomics policy. "I don't think bolstering the domestic demand will make any sizable dent in the surplus," he said. Japanese manufacturing firms are not looking to foreign consumers to reduce inventories, the MOF [Ministry of Finance] official said.

"Japan is exporting the products demanded to modernize the factories in the U.S., in Asia, and Europe as well," he said. Imports are brisk except for items related to the bubble economy such as gold for investments and luxury goods, he said. A decline in crude oil prices is the major factor that would once again increase the surplus, he said.

While admitting that the current account surplus, which accounts for about 2 percent of the nation's gross national product, is bordering on a range that could rekindle trade friction, the official said, "it's not in the cards that we will see a replay of 1986," when the trade surplus hit a record 83 billion dollars and Japan came under a chorus of criticism from its trade partners.

In 1991, Japan's trade was in the black by 78.23 billion dollars, up 50 percent from the previous year. The surplus in February doubled from a year before to 10.2 billion dollars.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressed concerns about the soaring trade surplus earlier Friday during a meeting with new Diet members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Sagawa Head Not To Be Summoned To Testify

OW1004145192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1410 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Kiyoshi Sagawa, chairman of the Scandal-tainted Sagawa Kyubin parcel delivery group, will not be summoned to testify to the Diet as an unsworn witness due to his lung ailments, a Diet committee chairman said Friday. Taro Nakamura, chairman of the House of Councillors Budget Committee, said he concluded it is impossible for Sagawa, 70, to testify before the Diet based on a medical report on Sagawa's condition submitted by his doctor.

The scandal centering on Kyoto-based Sagawa Kyubin Co. allegedly involves more than 500 billion yen in improper loans, shady loan guarantees, and payoff money to numerous politicians, businesses, and gangsters.

Opposition party Budget Committee members accepted Nakamura's decision. The medical report on Sagawa said the chairman of the nation's No. 2 trucking firm needs to rest in bed for a few months while undergoing medical treatment and cannot be subjected to psychological pressure, Nakamura said.

The committee also gave up plans to visit Sagawa for questioning or to seek a written statement from him, he said. However, the opposition members reportedly asked Nakamura not to discontinue the probe into the scandal by the upper house Budget Committee on grounds that witnesses other than Sagawa should still be summoned and that Sagawa might recover from his sickness.

Representatives of the governing Liberal Democratic Party and opposition groups agreed last Friday to summon Sagawa to the Diet.

Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a key firm in the Sagawa Group, is at the center of the loan scandal involving over 500 billion yen of loans and loan guarantees extended by two former company executives.

Miyazawa Urges Emergency Economic Measures

OW1004051292 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 10 Apr 92

[From the noon newscast]

[Text] At today's cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa urged that following the passage of the fiscal 1992 budget bill last night, efforts should be made so that emergency economic measures previously adopted will have a favorable impact on economic activity. He asked for cooperation from those cabinet members concerned in implementing emergency economic measures that the government had previously worked out.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Miyazawa touched on the passage of the fiscal 1992 budget bill, and said: Since the prevailing view indicates a slowdown in economic activities, the current budget bill has been worked out by taking the current economic situation into consideration and includes measures such as expanding spending on public works projects by a large margin. Now that the budget bill has been approved, conditions have been created for launching the emergency economic measures worked out previously. Therefore, I would like to request your efforts so that the effects of these measures will soon permeate into various fields, and that a favorable impact will be made on economic activity.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata stated: Since we will have to rely further on a huge amount of constructions bonds in implementing the fiscal 1992 budget bill, the government may be forced to reissue deficit-covering national bonds, depending on the fluctuation in business activity. And the important task is to strengthen our financial structure so that no deficit-covering bonds should ever be issued again. Then, he requested that in the execution of the budget, all-out efforts should be made to cut down expenditures.

Home Affairs Minister Masajuro Shiokawa called on all ministries and agencies asking that in distributing subsidies to local governments, full consideration should be

given to local situations so that distribution could be executed in an efficient way giving priority to localities in need.

Deposits at Leading Commercial Banks Decline

OW0904104192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0957 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—The balance of deposits at Japan's leading commercial banks as of the end of fiscal 1991 declined from the year before for the first time since such statistics were first compiled in 1979, according to a preliminary report released Thursday by a banking group.

The balance of deposits at the 11 major commercial banks as of the end of March totaled 199,537.4 billion yen, down 11,099.6 billion yen or 5.3 percent over a year earlier, said the report released by the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan.

The report said the rupture of the "bubble" economy has been accompanied by a decline in large-lot time deposits and withdrawals of demand deposits by corporations.

The balance of loans provided by the banks totaled 218,382.9 billion yen, up only 5,415.3 billion yen or 2.5 percent, it said.

Lending to firms has been sluggish due to the economic slowdown, which has lowered corporate demand for funds for investment in plant and equipment and working capital, it said.

Sakura Bank, formerly Mitsui Taiyo Kobe Bank, topped the list of deposits and loans with 29,146.7 billion yen and 32,779.6 billion yen, respectively.

Ishikawa Urges Tax Cut 'To Perk Up Business'

OW0904150892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1442 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—A Japanese business leader called on the government Thursday to effect tax cuts by issuing deficit-covering bonds of about three years' maturity to perk up business. The call was made by Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), at a press conference in Tokyo.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, earlier called for appropriations for tax cuts in the supplementary budget likely to be compiled early this fall.

MITI Official Urges Company Deregulation

OW0904081992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0709 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—A senior Japanese trade official called Thursday for deregulation of companies' ownership of their own shares to rescue the equity market from its "abnormal slump."

Speaking at a press conference, Yuji Tanahashi, vice minister of international trade and industry, repeated his worries about negative effects on the underlying economy of plummeting share prices.

Continued stock market drops, he said, would make companies hesitant to invest in plants and equipment and squeeze corporate liquidity as it reduces the value of companies' assets.

"The gloomy mood will linger in the industry as long as the market is in the doldrums," Tanahashi said.

He said decontrol of corporate holdings of their own shares should be considered to help absorb excessive shares floating in the market, which keep the supply-demand situation loose.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has been studying such a step for the past few years as means to help companies defend themselves against hostile takeovers, he said.

Tanahashi seemed positive about tax cuts for stock investors but he denied the government is now studying such a measure.

"It would be worth considering investment-tax reductions if the market remains in a slump," he said.

The MITI vice minister also said more than 100 negotiating nations of the deadlocked Uruguay Round of trade talks will meet unofficially next week to evaluate the state of the five-year talks, particularly at the request of developing nations.

But Tanahashi said the meeting, for which a specific schedule has not been set, is not intended to generate a breakthrough in the stalled talks but to assess progress made so far, prior to a summit between the United States and the European Community late this month.

Participants in the trade talks, sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, are closely watching the April 22 summit, which they hope will provide a renewed push to the round, derailed chiefly due to a farm trade dispute between Washington and Brussels.

Firms Asked To Withdraw OTC List Applications

*OW0904131292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT
9 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—The Japan Securities Dealers Association said Thursday it has asked 11 companies to withdraw their applications to be listed on the over-the-counter (OTC) market.

The move reflected the fact that the OTC market failed to recover since last December, when new listings were frozen due to sluggishness in the stock market, association officials said.

It is likely to be around July at the earliest before the companies will make another move to be included in the listing, they said.

Hata Opposes 'Fast Cure' To Bolster Stocks

*OW0904152992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1517 GMT
9 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata on Thursday brushed off expectations that the government might take measures to prop up the slumping stock market, claiming there is no "fast cure" for it.

Speaking at a press conference following the passage of the fiscal 1992 budget through the Diet, Hata said there are no measures that could work immediately to support stock prices. He stressed the fiscal and monetary steps that the government and the Bank of Japan have taken to provide a thrust to the economy will soon make their effects felt.

"We are already seeing some bright signs," he said, adding that the market would "be back to normal before long."

Sniping at recent sell-offs of bank issues in the market, Hata said there is no concern about the management foundations of Japanese banks. He said the selling of bank stocks are mainly caused by groundless rumors, and emphasized the soundness of the financial standing of banks.

The budget passed the Diet despite the opposition-controlled House of Councilors' voting it down because the more powerful House of Representatives had already passed it in mid-March.

Asked about whether the government is considering a supplementary budget to give an additional boost to the economy, Hata said it is too early to say whether another fiscal stimulus is necessary. He said the effects of the measures that are now in place should first be digested and assessed before considering any other steps.

The impact of the accumulated effects of the monetary easing since July 1 and the front-loading of public works spendings for fiscal 1992, included in the government's recent fiscal stimulus package, will be very considerable, he said.

He pointed out that public works expenditure by the central government will rise by 1.5 trillion yen in the first half of fiscal 1992 from the same period the previous year, and will be further augmented by an increase of 4.7 to 5.0 trillion yen in public works spendings by local governments.

The government announced the economic rescue package March 31, featuring the early disbursements for public works projects, and the following day the central bank cut the official discount rate to its lowest level since December 1989. Despite the measures, the Nikkei average, the benchmark stock indicator, has plummeted in the past week, tumbling some 15 percent to its lowest level in more than five years.

Hata, however, failed to present any good news for the market, only reiterating that Japan's economic fundamentals are still healthy and stock prices would soon be bottoming out. In a rare reference to specific moves in the market, Hata criticized the dumping of bank stocks. He said it is all speculation, arguing that banks' revenues are good and that they have sufficient retained profits to keep afloat.

MITI Study Commends Economic Structure

*OW0904150992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1404 GMT
9 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—Japan's economy is better structured to harness consumer demand than that of any other nation, according to a study released Thursday by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

The United States ranked second in the ministry's international comparison indicating the economic effects of final demand. The U.S. was followed by Germany, France, and Britain, the study said.

The study said that by comparison, a 100 million dollar final demand would create domestic output 1.66 times bigger in Japan, compared with 1.55 times in the U.S. and 1.46 times in Germany.

MITI officials attributed the findings to Japan having an economic structure oriented to processing industries, which import raw materials and do most of their own manufacturing. European industries, by contrast, tend to import partially manufactured goods, which results in lower domestic production.

Another contributor is the relatively small weight of the Japanese service sector, which has a less far-reaching effect than the manufacturing industries, the officials said.

They said the effect should be lessened in the future since the country's future economy will depend more on service industries.

Spring Wage Hikes Average Less Than 5 Percent

OW0904101492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0935 GMT
9 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—Wage hikes won by labor unions of major Japanese companies so far this spring average 4.89 percent, falling below the 5 percent level for the first time in four years, the Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren) said Thursday.

The powerful business group said the weighted average of wage hikes negotiated so far during the annual spring labor campaign for higher wages was down 0.68 percentage point from the final figure of 5.57 percent in 1991. The federation said 261 of the 327 companies surveyed have reached agreement with their unions on wage increases, adding the final figure is likely to stay below the 5 percent mark.

Nikkeiren President Takeshi Nagano told reporters that the wage hike of close to 5 percent would require companies to make intense cost reduction efforts. He praised the unions, however, for accepting that level of pay hikes.

In general, nonmanufacturers gave higher pay raises than manufacturers. By industry, two companies in the commercial industry offered the highest raise of 6.02 percent, while 13 companies in the private broadcasting industry gave the lowest hike of 3.41 percent.

Nikkeiren is now compiling a report on working hour reductions negotiated by unions this spring, the officials said.

Tokyo To Consider Numbering System for Taxpayers

OW1004130192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT
10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—The government is moving to establish a special council for discussions on a numbering system for taxpayers, government sources said Friday. The system is intended to facilitate fairer taxation, especially on financial assets, but could be also used in social security administration and residents' registrations, the sources said.

The council will seek to make recommendations to the prime minister on the system by 1995, the officials said. It is expected to start discussions after the government's existing Tax Commission compiles a report next fall on potential problems of the system.

A subcommittee of the commission is gathering data and holding intra-government discussions on the system. One major problem concerning the system is protection of privacy, the sources said.

Under the present tax system, income from interest on financial products and capital gains from stock trading are levied through a withholding tax, separate from other income. In the long range, the government plans to shift to a system of taxation on combined income.

Yakuza Leader Calls Gang Law Unconstitutional

OW1004145092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1305 GMT
10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—A senior member of Japan's largest Yakuza organization Friday blasted as "unconstitutional" the new antigang law implemented last month.

In a hearing in Kobe, western Japan, Masaru Takumi, the No. 2 man in the 23,000-strong Yamaguchi-Gumi, vowed that the organization would fight the new law on all fronts even in courts.

Public safety commissions in charge of police in Tokyo and Hyogo Prefecture held the hearings with the three largest crime organizations that are scheduled in May to be designated "boryokudan" or violent organizations.

The hearings were held as required under the antiorganized crime law which came into effect March 1 and it was the first time that police met the organizations to explain why their groups were being tabbed as "boryokudan."

Yakuza members attending the meeting were screened through metal detectors for guns or other weapons but each meeting was concluded without incident in less than an hour.

The National Police Agency plans to hold similar hearings later this month or in early May for seven other crime syndicates.

The agency said it hopes to eliminate yakuza-related crimes by enforcing the new law.

By designating the yakuza organizations as "boryokudan," police have greater power to crack down on the groups' activities that involve more intimidation than violence.

Yakuza members use intimidation to collect loans from citizens, as well as to "mediate" in civil suits where the implied threat of gangster violence produces a "settlement."

At Friday's meeting, Takumi portrayed the Yamaguchi-Gumi as modern-day Robin Hoods guided by a spirit of "ninkyo" or a chivalrous spirit that sides with the weak. Therefore, he argued, the new law does not pertain to the group.

He also told the hearing that the law contravenes the Constitution because it violates freedom of association and choice of profession.

Takumi further challenged that police had no concrete data on organization members that had criminal records, one of the criteria for designating an organization a "boryokudan."

Hyogo police told Takumi that the hearing was not the place to argue the constitutionality of the law.

Police officials also argued that with 55 percent of the group's 4,000 senior members holding criminal records,

the Yamaguchi-Gumi surpassed the standard requirement to be designated under the law.

After receiving the Yamaguchi-Gumi statements, Hyogo police asked Takumi to acknowledge the statement as evidence but the syndicate leader would not comply and only handed in a statement of their opinions that they had read aloud.

Meanwhile, in Tokyo, Keizo Tanaka, head of the Inagawa-Kai's headquarters, said his 7,500-member organization would "humbly parry" the antigang law and argued that "yakuza are not boryokudan."

The head of the Sumiyoshi-Kai, Shigeo Nishiguchi, told police officers that his 8,000-member group is a "nin-kyo" organization and that since last September members have been forbidden from using pistols and violators have been severely sanctioned and even forced out of the group.

Nishiguchi added he hopes the police would execute the law "prudently."

Reports of Friday's hearings will be made to the National Public Safety Commission with the formal National Police Agency designations expected in May.

Weapons Procurement Down First Time in 7 Years

OW0904131392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—The Defense Agency's weapons procurement orders in fiscal 1991 on a contract basis suffered the first year-on-year decline in seven years to 1,416.8 billion yen, the agency said Thursday.

The figure represented a 9.7 percent decline from the corresponding figure in fiscal 1990, the agency said.

Of the total, the Maritime Self-Defense Force was the biggest defense spender, with contracts worth 488.0 billion yen, down 14.5 percent from the previous year.

The Air-Self Defense Force placed second with 450.3 billion yen, followed by the Ground Self-Defense Force with 351.5 billion yen.

By maker, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., the manufacturer of high-technology frontline weaponry such as F-15 jet fighters and 90-type tanks, garnered top position as a defense contractor for the 27th consecutive year, the agency said.

Mitsubishi received the agency's orders for 354.5 billion yen worth of weaponry, the agency said. The figure marked a steep decline of 86.3 billion yen from a year earlier.

Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. was second with contracts totaling 141.4 billion yen, followed by Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Ltd. with 105.4 billion yen.

Air Defense Scrambles Decline in Fiscal 1991

OW1004125292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Japan's Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) fighters scrambled 488 times in response to the approach of planes of unknown nationality in fiscal 1991, down 116 from the previous year, ASDF officials said Friday.

The ASDF officials attributed the decrease in the number of defensive scrambles to the downsizing of the former Soviet Union's military exercises since last fall in parallel with the Soviet demise and to the halting of the regular U.S.-South Korea "Team Spirit" joint military drill.

The number dwindled for the third consecutive year since fiscal 1989 and failed to surpass 500 scrambles for the first time in 14 years, the officials said.

When radars detect planes of unknown nationality nearing Japanese airspace, ASDF F-15 and F-4 fighters stationed at seven air bases nationwide can scramble in order to intercept them and prevent them flying over Japanese territory. ASDF fighters in central and western Japan scrambled against 147 unidentified planes, compared with 241 the previous fiscal year, the officials said.

In the January-March period of 1992 (fiscal 1991), ASDF fighters scrambled against 65 planes of unknown nationality, almost halved from the 124 during the corresponding three-month term in 1990, mirroring the collapse of the Soviet Union, they said. However, the number of scrambles showed little decrease around Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido and the number of unidentified planes approaching Japan is still large, the officials said. ASDF fighters will continue to be on guard against such planes, they said.

Agricultural Minister Presents Annual Report

OW1004013092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0106 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Rural Japan must be revitalized to arrest the decline in agricultural productivity brought on by the aging of farmers and shrinking farmland, the Agriculture Ministry said in its annual report released Friday.

The report, presented by Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu and endorsed by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet, showed strong concern about dull production and the possible collapse of farming communities.

It stresses creating an environment in which farmers can pursue their occupation with hope and pride.

The 321-page document, subtitled "sustainable development of agriculture and rural communities with robust successors," said it is important to put land in the hands of motivated farmers to boost productivity.

"Individual operations and various management groups that transcend individual farm households must be supported on all levels and be able to yield incomes comparable to other industries," the report said, in order to encourage young entrepreneurs and attract new entrants to agriculture.

It said the farming work force continues to shrink, notably among the young, down 3.9 percent in fiscal 1990 from the previous year. The work force for the April-December period of fiscal 1991 fell 3.8 percent from the same period a year earlier.

On the other hand, the number of farmers aged 65 and more has been on an upward trend, the report said.

Farmers are increasingly giving up arable land, thereby lowering cultivation.

The report said it is necessary to transfer abandoned land to young, motivated farmers or entities with more efficient operations to maintain and develop production.

On environmental issues, it said farming has the function of preserving nature, but also degrades it through use of pesticides and fertilizers.

It is necessary to promote more environment-friendly farming through such means as the development and dissemination of new technology and the recycling of organic materials, it said.

On global farm trade talks, which are reaching a final stage, the report said Japan has not changed its stance that conversion of all trade barriers to tariffs is unacceptable.

As the world's largest net importer of agricultural products, Japan should gain the understanding of each member nation of the general agreement on tariffs and trade about Japan's position and make every effort to ensure this is reflected in negotiation results, it said.

It said Japan must remain self-sufficient in rice, its staple food.

The report also said Japan should prevent its self-sufficiency rate in food from further dropping and maintain the ability to supply basic domestic food needs.

It said this is necessary due to unstable global factors such as population increases, especially in developing countries, and environmental changes like global warming.

Toshiba Begins Marketing New Microcontrollers

OW1004110092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0800 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. said Friday it has begun marketing nine new microcontrollers for use with cordless telephones and other consumer products that boost operation speed and lower voltage use.

A microcontroller is similar to a central processing unit, but performs only a specific function in consumer electronics products.

Four of the TLCS-870 series microcontrollers comprise an analog-digital signal converter which improves voice transmission via a second handset for cordless phones.

They process a signal in one-millionth of a second and operate on two volts of battery power, company officials said.

Previous microcontrollers used in cordless phones required 2.7 volts of electricity to operate, the officials said.

The chips will have a sample price between 700 yen and 2,500 yen and be shipped some time from May to September, they said.

A similar microcontroller for cordless phones, which does not have an analog-digital converter, will be shipped in June for a sample price of 600 yen.

The company will also ship four other microcontrollers for use with videocassette recorders, air conditioners, and other consumer products within the year, with a sample price ranging from 800 yen to 3,500 yen.

Mitsubishi Motors Develops Car Safety Feature

OW0904112792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—Mitsubishi Motors Corp. said Thursday it has developed a new automobile safety feature which incorporates fuzzy logic chips to help reduce driver error and fatigue.

Company officials said the system, called the intelligent and innovative vehicle electronic control system (INVECS), uses fuzzy logic to control automatic transmissions, four-wheel drive and four-wheel steering systems, traction control systems, and electronically controlled suspension systems.

Fuzzy logic is a mathematical technique which, like human logic, deals with imprecise data that could lead to many solutions rather than one.

The new transmission system automatically downshifts gears to improve braking when the car is going downhill or when moving uphill shifts to a higher gear to eliminate sluggishness, the officials said. Currently, such shifting decisions must be made by the driver.

Traction control systems will adjust engine power to handle flat, uphill, and downhill roads, while four-wheel drive controls vary the torque ratio between front and rear wheels to match driving conditions.

The new four-wheel steering system moves the rear wheels in the opposite direction of the front wheels to enhance low-speed steering maneuvers.

The new suspension system, which involves a sensor fitted to the front of the car body, improves riding comfort by adjusting the car to height differences in the road and lateral movement in the suspension system.

The officials said Mitsubishi plans to introduce the new safety system in a future car model.

North Korea

'Text' of Minister's Report on IAEA Accord

SK0904111292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1029 GMT 9 Apr 92

["On the Proposal for the Ratification of Nuclear Safeguards Accord According to Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 9 (KCNA)—Deputy Choe Hak-kun, minister of nuclear energy industry, made a report on the proposal for the ratification of the nuclear safeguards accord (NSA) according to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) signed between the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] at the second-day sitting of the Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly today.

Follows the full text of the report:

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea signed on January 30 "Agreement Between the DPRK Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency on the Application of Safeguards According to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" with the International Atomic Energy Agency and submitted it to the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly for deliberation.

In response to the proposal, the 16th meeting of the Standing Committee of the 9th Supreme People's Assembly held on February 18 examined the NSA signed by the DPRK Government and, in view of the nature of the matter, laid it before the 3rd Session of the 9th Supreme People's Assembly for deliberation.

I, upon authorization, would like to make a report on the sincere efforts of the DPRK Government for a fair solution of the problem of the NSA which has been raised as one of the most acute problems in its external relations and its principled stand towards it.

The DPRK government joined the NPT on December 12, 1985. This was a just measure proceeding from the consistent anti-nuclear peace policy of our party. By doing so the DPRK Government declared at home and abroad its firm stand that it would use nuclear energy only for peaceful purpose and that it would not develop nuclear weapons.

Since its establishment the DPRK Government has invariably followed the anti-nuclear peace policy in its external relations.

The anti-nuclear peace policy of our party and the DPRK government is based on the fundamental principle of the *chuche* idea which regards man as the most precious being in the world, and it is an important component of the DPRK's foreign policy, the basic idea of which is independence, peace and friendship.

This policy proceeds from the essential requirement of our socialism centred on the masses of the people, and it reflects the demand for independence and will for peace of our people who are masters of the state and society and masters of their own destiny.

The DPRK Government has striven in every way to prevent nuclear arms race and remove nuclear weapons and has steadily promoted scientific researches to use nuclear energy for a peaceful purpose. It has made untiring efforts, above all, to get U.S. nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said:

"The conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone is badly needed to preserve and consolidate peace in Korea and, further, to guarantee peace in Asia and the rest of the world."

We regarded the removal of the nuclear threat of many years to us as a vital problem concerning the destiny of the Korean nation and have not stopped our anti-nuclear struggle for a moment.

At the 12th session of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly in November 1956 we clarified our official stand against the introduction of atomic weapons into South Korea and urged time and again in the later period that South Korea must not be allowed to be turned into a U.S. nuclear base.

In the 1960s and the 1970s, we made clear many a time the just stand of our party and the DPRK Government against the nuclearization of South Korea at the sessions of the Supreme People's Assembly, at the North-South Coordinating Committee, at the meetings of the Military Armistice Commission and on other occasions.

Our anti-nuclear struggle was further intensified in the 1980s when the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a nuclear test war, were staged every year and the danger of thermonuclear war was increased, and it developed into a struggle to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia.

In 1980, in order to remove the daily growing danger of nuclear war from the Korean peninsula, we advanced a number of dramatic proposals to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and effect disarmament and last year we proposed North-South negotiations for

disarmament on the Korean peninsula in keeping with the world current towards disarmament.

Last year when the nuclear powers reached a principled agreement on the matters of nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war, we urged the U.S. to pull its nuclear weapons out of South Korea and respond to the proposal for making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free, peace zone, if it truly desired peace.

Our principled proposals fully showed the firm stand and will of the government of the Republic to carry out on fair conditions the NPT on the Korean peninsula, remove the most dangerous hotbed of nuclear war from the planet, ease tension in the Korean peninsula and contribute to ensuring peace in Asia and the world.

The government of the Republic also worked out a chuche-based, independent nuclear power development plan and has carried on deep-going researches for the utilization of nuclear energy in socialist economic construction.

In accordance with the decisions of the 4th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea to develop nuclear energy industry, the government of our Republic has used radioactive rays and radioisotope in many fields of the national economy and has conducted systematic researches to develop nuclear energy by our own efforts.

While putting the main emphasis on the construction of thermal and hydro power stations, we paid close attention to the development of nuclear power in order to fully meet the growing demands of the national economy for electric power, and long ago we began to tirelessly develop nuclear power by domestic resources, technology and efforts.

The government of the Republic built an atomic research centre in the Yongbyon area and entered into researches for the peaceful utilization of atomic energy in accordance with the chuche-based plan for the development of atomic power.

Our scientists and technicians have worked hard, demonstrating the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, thus accumulating precious experience in the utilization of atomic energy and acquiring technology and knowledge necessary for building and operating an atomic power plant. This is the proud success which our people have gained in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and a valuable asset for developing the nuclear energy industry under a far-reaching plan.

The legal basis of all activities for the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in our country is the DPRK Law on Atomic Power, which was examined and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly on January 23, 1974, and which was endorsed by the 3rd Session of the 5th Supreme People's Assembly.

The atomic power law laying down the purpose of research into and development of atomic power, stipulates that the research into and development of nuclear energy for peaceful utilization should be conducive to

the rapid development of science and the economy of the country and to the improvement of the material and cultural life of the people.

The successful development of nuclear power in our country by domestic efforts and technology and the wide utilization of radioactive rays and radioisotope are the results gained in the efforts to achieve this purpose outlined in the law.

We will continue to step up atomic power development for the purpose of its peaceful use with main emphasis on the nuclear energy industry. While keeping in normal operation the pilot atomic power plant with 5,000 kw capacity, we will energetically promote the on-going construction of a 50,000 kw plant and a 200,000 kw plant to commission them in the middle of the 1990s.

We will step up the building of atomic power plants with greater capacity according to annual plans, in order to meet the growing demand of the national economy for electricity more satisfactorily.

The atomic power law also stipulates the need of exchange and technical cooperation with other countries on the principle of equality and mutual benefit in the domain of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, as well as the matter of strengthening cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other international organizations.

Cooperation between our country and the IAEA is increasing daily in the field of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

The technical materials and various information on the peaceful use of atomic energy which the IAEA sends regularly to us are used effectively in the researches for nuclear power development, the use of isotope, the protection from radiation and the establishment of a nuclear safety and safeguards system.

The technical cooperation rendered by the IAEA is being promoted with each passing day and the cooperative relations with its European and Asian member nations are also developing favorably.

In the future we will strengthen scientific and technical cooperation with the IAEA and other countries in the peaceful use of atomic energy.

The main purpose of the government of the Republic in joining the NPT was to promote international cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, get the U.S. nuclear weapons withdrawn from the Korean peninsula, remove the nuclear threat to us and, further, to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

Under the NPT, the non-nuclear treaty states assume the obligation not to produce, accept and possess nuclear weapons and other nuclear blast devices and have the right to develop nuclear energy for a peaceful purpose

while the treaty states possessed of nuclear weapons are bound not to threaten non-nuclear states but to guarantee their safety.

It is the most urgent question for our people who are under the constant U.S. nuclear threat to prevent the danger of a nuclear war and secure peace on the Korean peninsula.

This is entirely due to the fact that the United States is pursuing a nuclear blackmail policy against our people.

The United States began illegally introducing nuclear weapons into South Korea and deploying them in violation of the Armistice Agreement in the latter half of the 1950s and has turned the Korean peninsula into a dangerous hotbed of a nuclear war.

According to data available, it was officially made known at a meeting for examining the defense budget for 1976 that over 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons of various types and 54 nuclear-capable planes had been deployed in South Korea.

South Korea, nuclear powder magazine, has turned into a U.S. nuclear show window in the Far East in the real sense of the word, consequent upon the introduction and deployment of a wide variety of nuclear weapons for nearly 40 years.

Thus, the nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea numbered one per 100 square kilometres. This means that the density of their deployment is four times that of the NATO embracing 15 countries. And their total explosive power is 13,000 kilotons, or more than 1,000 times that of the A-bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in August, 1945.

"Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a test nuclear war against our Republic, were staged annually for 16 years from 1976 and all the nuclear weapons and means of their delivery from B-52 nuclear-capable strategic bombers to F-16 tactical nuclear-capable fighter-bombers and from medium-range Lance nuclear missiles to backpack nukes of the "Green Berets" commandoes operated against our Republic in the war games.

The outbursts of nuclear threat and blackmail against us that rolled off the tongues of U.S. high-ranking military authorities quite often pushed the situation to a more grave phase.

The conversion of South Korea into a nuclear base and a test ground for nuclear war posed a grave threat to peace not only on the Korean peninsula but also in Asia and the rest of the world.

This is illustrated by the fabulous number of nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea and by the fact that the operational radius of the nuclear-capable strategic and tactical bombers mobilized in the nuclear war games in South Korea went far beyond the boundaries of the Korean peninsula.

Especially, the fact that "E-4b", a nuclear war command plane was involved in the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises shows that these war games were carried out according to a global strategy, not limited to the Korean peninsula.

The deployment of the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea and the intensified nuclear war exercises were a violent infringement upon the sovereignty of our country and the biggest obstacle in the way of our people's cause of independence.

That is why preventing the danger of a nuclear war and securing peace on the Korean peninsula was raised as a vital question related to the destiny of our nation and as a pressing issue awaiting solution in the international politics.

When joining the NPT, the government of our Republic hoped that the United States, a nuclear weapon state, would renounce its nuclear threat to our country, a non-nuclear state, and discharge its legal obligations under the treaty.

Despite our persevering efforts, the U.S. continued shipping nuclear weapons into South Korea, increased nuclear threat to us and put on us the pressure of unilateral nuclear inspection, misleading world opinion by spreading false rumour about the "development of nuclear weapon" by us.

This unilateral U.S. pressure was an insult to our pride which we could not bear.

The government of our Republic which holds independence dearer than one's life insisted that for a fair settlement of the nuclear inspection problem, the U.S. must withdraw all the nuclear weapons from South Korea, remove the nuclear threat to us and commit itself to a legal guarantee of security for us and simultaneous inspection must be made of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea.

We also demanded that the large-scale "Team Spirit" joint military exercises involving means of nuclear war be discontinued.

The DPRK Government's stand toward nuclear inspection was a most fair and aboveboard one.

Unable to ignore our just demand and broad world opinion any longer, the United States last year published a plan for the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons, thus admitting, though indirectly, the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea, and said it would withdraw its nuclear weapons from South Korea, and stop the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

The U.S. also accepted our proposal for simultaneous nuclear inspection and responded to DPRK-U.S. high-level talks.

The South Korean authorities, too, unable to defy our reasonable demand any longer, published a "declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons" at last and reached

an agreement with us on the adoption of a declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Thanks to the consistent efforts of our Republic for the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea, the main stumbling block lying in the way of our signing the NSA was removed and preconditions were created for solution to this problem.

Now that circumstances and conditions have been created on the Korean peninsula for a fair solution to the problem of signing the NSA in accordance with our demand and assertion, the government of the DPRK sent a delegation to Austria at the end of January this year. And the delegation signed "Agreement Between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency on the Application of Safeguards According to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

This is a fruition of the consistent efforts made by the government of our Republic for a fair solution of the problem of signing the NSA in conformity with the mission of the NPT. And it is a great victory won by the government of our Republic which has waged a persevering struggle for the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and the removal of the danger of nuclear war, raising this as a question of principle for defending national sovereignty.

The problem of nuclear inspection can never be settled by pressure or strength.

Our people and the broad world public hail the fact that the realization of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is expected and favourable circumstances are being brought to maturity for a fair implementation of the NPT.

The world attention is focussed on the positive developments on the Korean peninsula which is a most dangerous hot spot on the globe.

All the facts mentioned above show that the principled demands are being met in the main for a fair solution of the nuclear inspection problem on the principle of equality in our country.

Thanks to the active efforts and positive measures of our Republic, the NSA was signed at last and a prospect has been opened for the solution of the nuclear inspection problem on the principle of impartiality.

The whole course since the signing of the NPT by our Republic shows clearly that the stand and assertion of our Republic on nuclear inspection are entirely just.

I declare once again to the home and foreign public the stand of the government of our Republic that if our nuclear safeguards accord is deliberated and endorsed at the current Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly, it will accept nuclear inspection without delay according to the working procedures agreed upon with the IAEA.

At the meeting of the Board of Governors of the IAEA held in Vienna in February, our delegation made it clear that practical steps for accepting nuclear inspection by the IAEA will be taken soon when our NSA is deliberated and endorsed at this session.

The overwhelming majority of the delegations present at the meeting welcomed this programme of ours related to the procedure of the ratification of the NSA.

This showed that our active programme won international recognition. When the deliberation of our NSA is successfully concluded at this session of the SPA, we will send documents and materials needed for nuclear inspection to the IAEA in good time and faithfully fulfill our obligations under the NPT by opening all the nuclear materials and facilities to inspection.

We have stated more than once that we have neither nuclear weapons nor intention, capacity and need to make them.

We have no intention of entering into a nuclear confrontation with the neighbouring big powers, still less it is conceivable for us to develop nuclear weapons which may exterminate the fellow countrymen.

No one should doubt this.

The United States also must respect our independent stand and show fidelity for a smooth solution of the problem of our nuclear inspection and faithfully fulfil its obligations under the NPT.

Delivering this report about the stand and future activities of the government of our Republic on nuclear inspection, I express the belief that the session will approve the proposal of the government of the Republic to ratify the NSA signed with the IAEA.

Spokesman: Information Submitted to IAEA 'Soon'

*SK1004110492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1034 GMT 10 Apr 92*

["We Will Do Our Utmost Efforts for Smooth Nuclear Inspection, DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman Tells KCNA"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 10 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry answered a question of KCNA today upon the deliberation and endorsement of the nuclear safeguards accord (NSA) signed between the DPRK Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) of the DPRK.

He said:

As already reported, the Third Session of the Ninth SPA of the DPRK deliberated on the proposal for the ratification of the nuclear safeguards accord signed between

the DPRK Government and the IAEA under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and adopted a historic decision on endorsing it with unanimous approval.

This is a patent proof of the efforts of the DPRK Government which adopted an anti-nuclear peace policy in order to fundamentally remove the threat of nuclear war and preserve a durable peace and security in the world and has consistently striven for its implementation.

Now the entire Korean people warmly welcome the endorsement of the nuclear safeguards accord at the Third Session of the Ninth SPA after it became possible to solve the nuclear problem fairly on the Korean peninsula in conformity with their desire and demand.

The endorsement of the NSA at the SPA session is an indisputable evidence which shows not only in word but in deed the truthfulness of our consistent stand that we do mean what we say and we do not make an empty talk, as already declared by the DPRK Government.

The government of our Republic has made energetic efforts to prevent a nuclear war, ensure a durable peace and have the noble purpose and mission of the NPT fairly fulfilled from the very day it joined the treaty.

As the conditions that our side had consistently demanded for the creation of environments for signing the NSA were being brought to maturity, the government of our Republic, without delay, signed the NSA with the IAEA on our own initiative on January 30, deliberated on it at the competent organs according to the home legal procedures and referred it to the Third Session of the Ninth SPA for deliberation.

Since the NSA was approved at the SPA, we will humbly accept the nuclear inspection by the IAEA according to the NSA and sincerely implement our obligations under the NPT in the future, too.

In this connection we will soon submit an information of the designs of nuclear facilities and a report on the stock of initial nuclear material to the IAEA as stipulated in the NSA and make all our efforts to ensure a smooth nuclear inspection by consulting the IAEA about working matters such as the drafting of annexed detailed rules needed for the inspection.

There is no change in the consistent stand of the DPRK Government to honestly discharge its obligations under the NPT.

The endorsement of the NSA signed between the DPRK Government and the IAEA by the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK has evoked a spate of positive response from many countries and has deepened international trust in the DPRK.

To our regret, however, at a time when the world is rejoicing at and hailing the smooth process of the settlement of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula, some quarters are still trying to hamper the process at any cost, disliking it.

People of some quarters of the United States including the CIA are now spreading a rumor about the "development of nuclear weapons" by the DPRK. They continue putting unreasonable pressure on the DPRK, threatening that "such countermeasures as bombing North Korea's nuclear facilities even after a nuclear inspection was made by the IAEA are now under consideration."

This is an intrigue motivated by a sinister political purpose for creating artificial obstacles and thus preventing the DPRK from going through nuclear inspection by the IAEA and then shifting the responsibility for it onto the DPRK and, at the same time, finding a pretext for continued illegal presence of the U.S. forces in South Korea.

Those who have hitherto put interventionist pressure upon the DPRK to accept a quick inspection by the IAEA, crying over its fictitious "development of nuclear weapons", are talking about the "necessity of independent inspection", suddenly contending that the inspection by the IAEA alone is unreliable. It is only too natural that the world people cast doubt on their real intention.

However feverishly some people may try to decry us, while threatening us, the false rumor about the "development of nuclear weapons" will be dragged into the light of day through the nuclear inspection by the IAEA and their plot will end in a bitter failure.

The government of our Republic will as ever fully discharge its noble obligations under the NPT and thus denuclearise the Korean peninsula under all circumstances.

KCNA Reports Closing of 3d Session of 9th SPA

*SK1004102192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1000 GMT 10 Apr 92*

[Text] Pyongyang April 10 (KCNA)—The third session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea closed on April 10 after a successful discussion of the agenda items.

The session adopted "On the Results of the Fulfilment of the State Budget of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for 1991", a decision of the SPA of the DPRK, and "On the State Budget for 1992 of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea", a law of the SPA of the DPRK, by unanimous approval.

The results of the election of new member of the Central People's Committee, chairman and members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA and member of the Budget Committee of the SPA at the second-day sitting were made public at the session.

According to them, Deputies Yom Ki-sun and Kim Ki-sun were recalled from their posts of members of the Central People's Committee for the assumption of other posts and Deputy Yi Kil-song was elected member of the Central People's Committee.

Deputy Kim Yong-sun was elected chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA and Deputies Chang Chae-chol and Yi Song-nok its members.

Deputy Yun Pyong-kwon was elected member of the Budget Committee of the SPA.

Yang Hyong-sop's Closing Address

*SK1004085592 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0703 GMT 10 Apr 92*

[Closing speech by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, at the Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly on 10 April—recorded]

[Text] Comrade deputies: The Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], which was held amid all the people's great interest across the country, ends its work after having successfully discussed the presented agenda items with the active participation of the comrade deputies.

At the current SPA session, the status of the execution of the 1991 state budget was summed up and the state budget for 1992 was deliberated and approved. At the session, the bills adopted by the SPA Standing Committee were deliberated and approved, and the proposal of the government of the republic on ratifying the safeguards accord pursuant to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty signed between the DPRK Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] was deliberated and approved. At the session, the DPRK socialist Constitution, amended and supplemented in conformity with the demands of the developing reality, was deliberated and approved.

The state budget for 1992, which was unanimously supported and approved at the current SPA session, has been correctly compiled into a realistic and dynamic budget that can promote the people's living standard one step higher by guaranteeing the finances necessary for implementing the cardinal task of socialist construction given by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year Address this year and the great socialist construction policy of our party and by more smoothly solving the food, clothing, and housing problems in conformity with the demands of socialism.

The state budget for 1992 is an independent and solid budget that makes it possible to further strengthen the might of the socialism of our own style by effecting a new upsurge in the revolution and construction this year, a significant year, and to highly exalt its superiority by firmly guaranteeing financially the excellent fulfillment of all political and economic tasks assigned to us. It is also a genuine people-oriented budget that allocates sufficient state financial resources to promote the people's welfare.

With the revision and supplementation of our nation's socialist constitution at the current SPA, a firm legal

guarantee for accelerating the revolution and construction and for further consolidating and developing the state and social systems has been provided.

The entire course of the session, in which presented agenda items were successfully discussed, clearly shows the superiority and vitality of our nation's popular mass-centered socialist system, which is being consolidated and developed each day without wavering no matter how the situation changes under the wise leadership of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] headed by respected Comrade Kim Il-song and the government of the Republic. This course also demonstrates our people's firm faith and revolutionary will to accomplish the socialist cause to the end in firm unity with the party and the leader with the might of single-hearted unity and to build a new independent world free from nuclear weapons and war. [applause]

During the current SPA session, we correctly reviewed and decided on the practical issues pertaining to strengthening the nation's political and economic might and to consolidating and developing our state and social systems in compliance with the demand of our revolution. We again clearly showed the principled, fair, and just position consistently maintained by our party and the government of the republic in the work for nonnuclear peace, as well as their sincere efforts. I firmly believe that this SPA session will open a new occasion in our people's struggle to accelerate the socialist construction, to expedite national reunification, and to consolidate peace in the world. I now declare the closing of the Third Session of the Ninth SPA. [applause]

Joint Exchange Subcommittee Holds 3d Meeting

*SK1004111392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1049 GMT 10 Apr 92*

[Text] Panmunjom April 10 (KCNA)—The third contact of members of the Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittee of the North-South high-level talks was held at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom today.

After the contact, Son Chong-chol, member of the North side, told reporters:

At the contact, the North side put forward a new modified draft largely accepting the South side's proposal, with a view to promptly concluding the contact of members of the two sides, initialling an annexed agreement at the subcommittee and bringing it into effect at the seventh inter-Korean high-level talks.

The South side, however, came out with no modified draft and proposed to discuss the second article first in the problem of North-South cooperation and exchange, putting aside the first article.

The North side called the South side to account for its insincere attitude and argued that in order to conclude the contact promptly, the discussion should begin with

the first article and the common points and differences in the drafts of the two sides be clarified and the differences alone be discussed.

As demanded by the North side, the sides picked out the common points in the drafts first and then discussed the different points.

Due to the negative attitude of the South side, however, the views of the sides could not be brought closer and it was decided to continue the discussion at the subcommittee meeting slated for April 18.

U.S. Official's Comments on Inspection Denounced

SK1004051892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0440 GMT 10 Apr 92

[“MINJU CHOSON Denounces Anti-DPRK Campaign of Reactionary U.S. Military Quarters”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 10 (KCNA)—U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Ford, at a hearing of the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives, spun out the trash that it is necessary to take a more strict inspection measure to check the nuclear development of the DPRK, crying that the inspection by the International Atomic energy Agency is insufficient.

MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today brands the bellicose blasts let loose by the reactionary U.S. military quarters in succession as part of their outspoken anti-DPRK row and base moves to justify their occupation of South Korea and build up public opinion against the DPRK.

The analyst says:

The reactionary U.S. military circles are persistently setting afloat rumors about “nuclear development” by the DPRK, spreading “suspicions” about the problem of “nuclear inspection” of the DPRK and calling for a “more strict measure”. This is intended to impair the dignity of our republic at any cost and keep the U.S. forces in South Korea and step up the war preparations at faster pace to dominate the DPRK and other Asian countries by putting a brake on the “nuclear inspection” which is being smoothly solved.

For this very purpose, they are spreading more viciously the fiction of “threat from the North” these days.

They cannot mislead public opinion and realize their ambition to dominate the DPRK with the sinister false propaganda.

The U.S. military quarters would be well advised to act with discretion, mindful of this.

South Korea

Hyundai Executives Admit to Evading Taxes

SK0904140592 Seoul YONHAP in English
0744 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 9 (YONHAP)—The Seoul district prosecutor's office was expected to arrest several executives of Hyundai Merchant Marine Co. on forgery and other charges Thursday.

Under overnight questioning, Hyundai Electronics Industrial Co. Managing Director Choe Kyong-hui, a former head of the firm's management headquarters, and five others had admitted that documents were forged or altered to evade taxes totaling 27.1 billion won, a prosecution spokesman said.

The prosecutor's office has obtained warrants to search the homes of Vice Chairman Chong Mong-hon, former company Presidents Song Yun-chae and Pak Se-yong and the offices of Hyundai Marine and Hyundai Corp. to seize evidence.

The prosecution suspects Hyundai Corp., trading arm of the giant Hyundai Group, of introducing 30 million U.S. dollars from abroad through Hyundai Marine's U.S. affiliate, Hyundai Merchant Marine America Inc., without its creditor bank's permission.

The six Hyundai men made conflicting statements as to who gave the order to evade taxes, the spokesman said.

To ferret out the truth, he said, the prosecution would question two other company officials—Kim Chong-sik, director of Hyundai Marine's Management Headquarters, and Hwang Son-uk, the executive in charge of management.

Choe and others are suspected of altering the contents of freight invoices submitted by foreign clients for use in making overseas remittances to make it appear as if the company had remitted freight charges abroad when it hadn't, he said.

They went so far as to forge foreign exchange purchase requests and bank remittance notifications, he said.

Upon completion of its preliminary investigation, the prosecution plans to summon Chong Mong-hon, a son of Hyundai founder Chong Chu-yong, and two ex-presidents who were sued by the Office of National Tax Administration on tax evasion charges, to determine who to hold ultimately responsible for the evasion.

The prosecution suspects that the company created a secret fund with money secured through tax evasion for use in lobbying, the spokesman said.

The prosecutor's office found that Hyundai Marine borrowed 90 million dollars from a foreign bank in the United States through Hyundai Merchant Marine America.

When the firm was unable to pay interest on the loan, cash was sent from Seoul in the guise of "freight charges," he said.

Chong Decries 'Oppression' of Hyundai

SK1004030792 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 10 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] Business tycoon and founding leader of the pro-business opposition Unification National Party (UNP), Chong Chu-yong said yesterday that the government's "oppression" of the Hyundai Group, would wreck the Korean economy.

He said he would not be bullied by the government's moves against Hyundai.

Speaking to journalists, Chong accused the government of attempting to destroy the Hyundai Group which he founded.

"It will eventually result in the wrecking of the national economy," he said. Hyundai has a total of 43 subsidiaries which produce products, ranging from automobiles and ships to electronic goods.

Chong's warning followed the arrest of five officials of Hyundai Merchant Marine Co. for allegedly evading taxes.

Chong protested the government's tax-evasion charges against Hyundai's shipping arm as "baseless." "I must say that some 90 percent of the charges, in terms of the amount of money involved, are totally groundless."

The tax administration's latest move against Hyundai Merchant Marine is a government-masterminded political conspiracy to undermine the fledgling UNP, Chong insisted while speaking at a debate sponsored by the Kwanhun Club at the Korea Press Center.

Dismissing the long-standing allegations about Hyundai's collusive partnerships with the past authoritarian governments, Chong insisted that his party will devote itself to severing such corrupt links between big business and the government.

Although it is only a 32-seat minority party, the UNP will try to introduce reforms in parliament, representing the true voices of the people and promoting new laws, Chong said.

The faction-ridden ruling Democratic Liberal Party is doomed, he insisted. The ruling party, a patchwork of three factions with no guiding ideology, would be dissolved as soon as President No steps down early next year, Chong claimed.

In an ensuing political realignment, he said, the UNP will expand its ranks by attracting break-away ruling party lawmakers.

But Chong ruled out the possibility of DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam joining the UNP. Even if Kim

should bolt the ruling party after losing the presidential nomination race, he would form his own party to bid for the presidency, Chong said.

Revealing his hostile relations with former presidential aide for economic affairs, Kim Chong-in, Chong accused him of distorting his advice in good faith, thus alienating him from President No.

Chong contended that most of the labor disputes at his Hyundai subsidiaries were instigated by communist elements working at the behest of North Korean leader Kim Il-song.

He stressed the need to reshape relations between the government and big business. He said lessening the economic concentration of chaebol or large business conglomerates would be conducive to the national economy and small companies.

Chong indicated that his party would promote policies that would help large companies specialize in certain sectors of business.

Chong, who embarrassed the government late last year by disclosing his large political donations to the incumbent and former presidents, said he would not make any more such "bombshell" revelations.

DLP Rebuts Chong's Remarks

SK1004040292 Seoul YONHAP in English
0141 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 10 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) on Friday disputed a statement by Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai Group, that the government was undermining the conglomerate for political purposes.

"How could it be described as undermining tactics when the government is taking a legal course of action on immoral and illegal transactions of a business group?" DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae asked.

In a panel discussion organized by a journalist group Thursday evening, Chong, founder of the Unification National Party (UNP), accused the administration of President No Tae-u of undermining his party and the Hyundai Group by making a series of announcements alleging tax evasion and other wrongdoings by group companies.

Pak said Chong, who insists on the separation of business and politics, was contradicting himself when he said the government was undertaking a tax investigation of Hyundai companies in order to undermine the UNP.

Chong claimed he would require the disclosure of real names in all financial transactions if he were elected president, Pak said.

"If he really intends to do this, why shouldn't he and his family publicly disclose all property and accounts registered under assumed names?" Pak asked.

No Tae-u Iterates Hopes for Fair Nomination Race

SK0904142292 Seoul YONHAP in English
1208 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 9 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u reiterated Thursday that the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] presidential nomination race should be conducted in a fair manner in strict compliance with the party charter.

"Efforts should be made to ensure a fair competition based on democratic principles and the party charter so that its result will open the path to our upkeep of power," No said at a weekly meeting with DLP Co-Chairman Kim Yong-sam.

No made the remarks emphasizing that the May party convention will carry a greater meaning than a simple event for selecting a presidential candidate for the party, Son Chu-hwan, senior presidential secretary for political affairs, said after the meeting.

Kim was quoted as saying that he would abide by democratic principles and pursue fair competition for the sake of the nation's democracy.

Son said Kim never talked of the issue of coordinating the nomination race prior to the convention.

Persistently asked if No and Kim have agreed on a free competition, Son replied that Kim promised to observe democratic principles and precedures according to the party charter and regulations.

Asked whether Kim meant to accept the result of the competition, Son simply said, "his pledge to follow democratic principles embraces all."

Asked whether Kim asked for No's support, Son said, "Kim expressed his firm determination to respect the democratic significance of the competition. There is no change in No's will to manage the nomination convention in a square and just manner so it could be held in a most democratic way."

Kim Tae-chung Urges Elections for Mayor, Governor

SK1004041692 Seoul YONHAP in English
0248 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 10 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, leader of the major opposition Democratic Party (DP), called on President No Tae-u Friday to conduct mayoral and gubernatorial elections in the first half of the year to accommodate the public will exhibited in the March 24 general elections.

"If President No does not give his word that the elections of local administrative chiefs will be held as required by law within the first half of the year, I will not respond to any offer for talks with him," Kim told a breakfast meeting organized by the Korean Newspaper Editors Association at the Korea Press Center.

Kim said No should apologize for the injustices committed in the course of absentee voting at military barracks and should fire his defense minister and the defense security commander.

"Vote rigging occurred at between 20 and 30 places with focus on the natives of those areas... If the incumbent National Assembly fails to unveil the truth, we will bring the issue to the 14th assembly for full investigation. Then we will take legal actions, nullifying the election of those who won seats through vote rigging," he said.

"We will promote improvement of the absentee voting system, either by enabling political party observers to oversee the voting process or by opening the way for soldiers to vote outside their barracks."

As for the method of selecting a presidential candidate, the charismatic leader said his party would do it through "completely open competition" in a national convention in May as party statutes prescribe.

"If there is only one candidate, that person will submit to a confidence vote. The result will have to be unconditionally accepted by everyone in the party," Kim said.

He hinted at running for presidency himself.

"I will make a decision in May, listening humbly to the party members' opinion," said Kim, who lost both of his previous bids for the presidency, first against the late Pak Chong-hui and then against No.

He argued that his party could win the presidential elections in December only if local autonomy and fair elections were thoroughly realized.

Noting that regional antagonism was a serious problem, Kim said his party's presidential candidate would campaign on a personnel management policy that allocates key government posts by region in proportion to population.

He stressed the need for a vice presidency and said that if no presidential candidate won a majority of the vote there should be a run-off election.

Touching on economic issues, he criticized the government for failing to heed his party's advice and suggestions.

"The DP has given much advice on the need to make the bank of Korea independent, to implement a system under which financial transactions are carried out in real names, and to prevent the expansion of the budget, but none of them have been reflected in policies and the result is a difficult economic situation," he charged.

He said the nation's economy could be revitalized only when a democratic and consistent leadership made efforts to strengthen international competitiveness and curbed inflation at 3 percent or less.

Military Rejects Neutral Vote-Fraud Investigation*SK1004023392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 10 Apr 92 p 3*

[Text] The Defense Ministry yesterday rejected a call by opposition parties for a reinvestigation by a neutral team of the alleged vote rigging in the military for the March 24 parliamentary elections.

A ranking military official said that "the call for reinvestigation by a team composed of military police, civilians and opposition lawmakers has no legal ground, and that the military police of the 9th Army Division is now investigating the allegations made by First Lt. Yi Chi-mun."

The officer, who requested anonymity, said that "the Defense Ministry will not accept the request by the Citizens' Coalition for Fair Elections (CCFE) to observe the ongoing military police investigation into the alleged rigging of military absentee votes."

He said that the ministry "is ready to listen to opinions of any group or organization about the issue, but the investigation should be based on relevant laws."

The opposition parties, the CCFE and student groups are calling for a "fair investigation" into the allegations made by Yi, who is in the custody of the 9th Division military police on charges of having been absent without leave (AWOL).

He triggered a controversy March 22 when in a news conference he charged senior officers with rigging the military absentee votes conducted from March 16 to 23.

The ministry official also said, "I don't think excessive punishment will be given to First Lt. Yi," while rejecting, however, the opposition's call for Yi's release.

Meanwhile, five representatives of the CCFE visited Defense Minister Choe Sae-chang at his office and delivered its official request for a new investigation.

Representatives of CCFE, including Yi Han-pin, former deputy prime minister, demanded that the truth about the alleged vote rigging be brought to light and that First Lt. Yi be released immediately.

They also requested that Choe spell out measures to prevent the recurrence of this problem and allow the CCFE to launch an independent investigation of Yi's allegations.

On Wednesday, hundreds of members of 11 civic groups in Seoul held a rally at the Christian Center, demanding President No Tae-u's open apology for the election scandal.

They also called for the punishment of the defense minister and other military officers believed to be involved in the vote rigging, the immediate release of First Lt. Yi, and the disbandment of the Defense Security Command.

"First Lt. Yi's charges and over 500 other reports filed with the news media and civic groups demonstrate the immorality of the incumbent government," they charged.

The civic group members also demanded the truth be revealed about the scandal, urging the military to conduct a fair investigation of the allegations.

DPRK-Provoking Terms in Laws To Be Deleted*SK1004062892 Seoul YONHAP in English
0501 GMT 10 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 10 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry will alter terms that could provoke North Korea or that are outdated in military-related laws in preparation for inter-Korean reconciliation, a ministry official said Friday.

The ministry would carry out a general review of 41 laws to find obstacles to improvement in inter-Korean relations and get rid of them, he said.

He said potentially offensive terminology such as "North Korean Puppet Clique" would be changed to "North Korea."

The ministry was also considering abolishing the compensation act for North Korean defectors or reducing the amount of compensation because inter-Korean personnel exchanges would become active in the near future, he said.

Media Criticized for Publishing 'Secrets'*SK1004024392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 10 Apr 92 p 2*

[From the "Out and About" column entitled: "Leak of Secrets"]

[Text] National-security officials at Chongwadae looked unusually upset by the recent leak of what they alleged to be secrets surrounding North Korea's move to improve its ties with the United States.

Some even accused the domestic news media of neglecting national interests, arguing that local journalists are generally irresponsible in reporting sensitive foreign-policy issues.

Said one senior official Wednesday: "The news media should refrain from carrying such stories for the sake of national interests."

He was talking about a CHOSON ILBO report that Pyongyang last month sent a letter to the U.S. Government, calling for the upgrading of the level of bilateral diplomatic contacts.

According to the CHOSON, the purported U.S. reply to North Korea's secret letter also says that the communist state must submit to international nuclear inspections by June and present the blueprint for the Yongbyon nuclear reprocessing facility now under construction to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Officials at the presidential office neither confirmed nor denied the report. They indicated, however, that Seoul and Washington exchanged views on steps to be taken about the North Korean move.

"Such a story would undermine mutual confidence between the Seoul and Washington governments," claimed one official, hinting that the two sides agreed to keep the Pyongyang letter secret.

He did not say why the letter was considered important to Washington. Neither did he say whether U.S. officials protested about the leak.

A YONHAP News Agency dispatch from Washington said a U.S. Government spokesman had also expressed displeasure at the disclosure of Pyongyang's sending a letter to Washington.

The presidential officials, meantime, appeared to suspect that the leak was made at the Foreign Ministry. One official alleged that the "ranking government source" quoted by the CHOSON ILBO was found to be a director-level official at the ministry. But ministry officials say the presidential office is to blame.

Chongwadae and the Foreign Ministry had often blamed each other over the leak of sensitive diplomatic secrets in the past.

Observers said foreign-policy makers of the government are expected to become more cautious toward reporters.

They noted that the story about the North Korean letter came just several days after a report by a local daily of detailed positions of South and North Korea regarding the contemplated mutual inspection of suspected nuclear weapons sites.

Government Demands Tariff Exemption for Rice

SK1004021592 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 10 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] Korea will insist on its position that rice be exempted from the tariffication list for market opening, as part of a plan for an accord proposed by GATT chief Arthur Dunkel in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks yet to be settled, it was announced yesterday.

Revealing Korea's schedule for the opening of their agricultural market, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Kang Hyon-uk said Korea will still oppose not only the tariffication formula for rice but the minimum market access to the rice market and reduction commitments in domestic support for the nation's staple grain.

A few agriculture-importing countries, including Korea and Japan, have demanded that rice and other key agricultural items should not be subject to tariffication in

consideration of non-trade objectives such as food security and environmental preservation. Dunkel's compromise plan calls for converting all non-tariff measures of all agricultural items into tariffs, which would be reduced progressively.

But Korea will be more flexible in negotiating 14 other agricultural non-trade concern (NTC) products, Minister Kang said. They include barley, beef, pork, chicken, milk and other dairy products, red pepper, garlic, onions, potatoes, sweet potatoes, tangerines, soybeans, corn and sesame.

The schedule, to be delivered to the GATT Secretariat today, did not present the tariff equivalents for the 14 agricultural items, but possible tariffication of some of the products will be decided in future negotiations, the minister said.

Analysts said Korea still believes in the successful conclusion of the multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and apparently shifted from the offer list announced in 1990 calling for the recognition of the 15 NTC items.

Minister Kang said 151 items would be subject to the tariffication formula under which tariff equivalents—the difference between international and domestic prices—will be imposed. The 151 items include apples, pears, peaches, sweetened persimmons, grapes, red ginseng and leaf tobacco.

The tariff equivalents will be slashed by an average 24 percent over the period between 1993 and 2002, with preferential treatment given to developing countries, said the minister, adding that Korea is supposed to be given such treatment.

A tariff equivalent of 1,611 percent will be imposed on red ginseng in the first year of its opening to foreigners, he said.

The minister said that up to 3.3 percent of domestic consumption of the non-NTC products will be open to foreign competition under current tariff rates as part of Dunkel's minimum market access plan.

The number of the items subject to tariff concessions will rise to 934, accounting for 74 percent of a total of 1,269 agricultural products, he said.

Domestic support or money paid to farmers to maintain and expand production will be reduced by 13.3 percent during the period between 1993 and 2002 based on the average figure for the years 1989-1991.

The reduction plan will involve soybean, corn and rapeseed, but reduced production will not have a great impact on the growers of these products, the ministry predicts.

Domestic support for projects such as agricultural guidance programs, prevention of harmful insects and development of rural communities will continue to be allowed, Kang said. In particular, the government's

ongoing 10-year project to restructure the agricultural industry will be classified as an exemption for reduction commitment, he noted.

Korea has so far provided no export subsidies, the minister said. A dispute over the reduction level of the export subsidies has also stalled the progress of the six-year-old talks, dubbed the Uruguay Round.

Despite Dunkel's call for the mid-March deadline for presenting schedules, only 25 countries have sent their respective plans for the market opening of agricultural products.

Nearly \$38 Billion in Exports Expected by July

*SK1004025692 Seoul YONHAP in English
0156 GMT 10 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 10 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean exports for the first half of the year are expected to reach 37.74 billion U.S. dollars, led by steel, electronics, machinery and automobiles, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) said Friday.

Exports in January-June will be 11.1 percent higher than the same period last year with most increases to Central and South America, Africa, and Asian countries other than Japan, KOTRA predicted.

Machinery is likely to do exceptionally well, with an anticipated 32.2-percent increase to 1.43 billion dollars.

Automobile exports are set for a jump of 17.1 percent, electronics, 10.9 percent, and steel, 10.4 percent, according to KOTRA.

Labor-intensive products, on the other hand, will not do so well. KOTRA gave plastic goods a 2.2-percent increase, tires and tubes 3.6 percent and textiles 5 percent. Footwear exports are actually going to diminish 4.5 percent, it said.

Performance of Korea's 10 major export items is to hover around 8.7 percent, KOTRA predicted.

Japan, the European Community and the United States are not going to be much of a market for Korean products. Korea will do better in Asia, Latin America and Africa, it said.

The state-run corporation suggested that Korean companies focus on China, with which it signed a trade pact last December, and on Taiwan, whose six-year construction plan will boost import demand.

To compensate for the weakness in labor-intensive products, exporters need to increase small contracts, KOTRA said.

UK Firm Seeking Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Deal

*SK1004052692 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN
in Korean 10 Apr 92 p 2*

[Text] THE GUARDIAN, a progressive British daily, reported on 9 April that the British nuclear industry is creating problems for the United Kingdom with its quest for a contract with Korea to reprocess wasted nuclear fuel in defiance of concerned UK Government offices.

British Nuclear Fuel, a nuclear waste reprocessing firm, is now involved in activities to win a contract for reprocessing wasted nuclear fuel from the Korea Electric Corporation. It plans to open an office in Seoul for that purpose.

The UK Trade and Industry Ministry is reported to have taken a negative stand on the move by British Nuclear Fuel on the grounds of fear of nuclear proliferation. According to the newspaper, the UK Trade and Industry and Energy Ministries are divided over the issue.

If it wins the contract from the Korea Electric Corporation, British Nuclear Fuel plans to send back to Korea plutonium produced as a result of reprocessing wasted nuclear fuel, as the UK Government has taken the stand that material produced as a result of reprocessing nuclear fuel should be sent back to the country concerned.

Meanwhile, the UK Trade and Industry Ministry has classified 33 countries, including Korea, as regions sensitive to export of nuclear materials because of fear of nuclear proliferation on the grounds that there is "no effective way of controlling the use of nuclear material for other purposes or of controlling its export." So, the GUARDIAN says, this will create problems for the next government in the United Kingdom.

At present, British Nuclear Fuel is processing nuclear fuel for Japan at its (Sellafield) plant under a contract, and Japan is storing the plutonium produced at this plant as fuel for fast-breeders. Of course, this kind of plutonium can be used for producing nuclear weapons.

The UK Trade and Industry Ministry said that since Korea is classified as a country sensitive to export of nuclear material, any permit to export nuclear material to Korea inevitably will have to be coordinated among the UK Government offices. The Energy Ministry, the government office in charge, said that it had not received any request for permission to export nuclear fuel from the United States, the supplier of nuclear fuel to Korea, as "no export of nuclear fuel" has been carried out.

Japan Requests End to Fishing off Kuril Islands

*SK1004100792 Seoul YONHAP in English
0931 GMT 10 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 10 (OANA-YONHAP)—Japan, insisting that it owns the four southernmost Kuril Islands, not Russia, asked South Korea on Friday not to fish in the area under the Korea-Russia fisheries accord.

Jun Kawashima, minister at the Japanese Embassy, met with Foreign Ministry officials for more than an hour and asked that Korea voluntarily refrain from fishing in the disputed waters, officials said.

Korea and Russia signed a fisheries accord in January that allows each a 430,000-ton catch in the other's waters. A group of private companies struck a subsidiary accord in February opening the zone around the Kuril Islands to Korean fishing vessels for a set fee.

Korean boats are set to begin fishing in the area within a couple of months, but Kawashima warned that the Japanese people "will be deeply disturbed" once they start their activities.

Japan has its own fisheries accord with Russia under which it pays for fishing rights in the same disputed zone. But the Japanese agreement has a special clause that nullifies it automatically when the four islands are turned over to Japan, Tokyo officials say.

Tokyo is asking Seoul to voluntarily refrain from fishing near the islands, but Ministry officials have responded negatively.

"Economics and politics should be treated separately," one of them said. "The Korea-Russia fisheries accord is an economic pact. The territorial dispute is a political issue."

Signing of Sports Pact With PRC Set for Apr

SK1004064092 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO
in Korean 9 Apr 92 p17

[Text] The ROK and China are to sign an agreement on exchange of sports science and information on 28 April.

The ROK Sports and Youth Ministry said that a group of four officials led by Wu Shaozu, minister of the Chinese State Physical Culture and Sports Commission (equivalent to sports minister), will come to Korea for a week-long visit on 24 April. During their stay, Chong Song-tae, head of the Korea Sports and Science Institution, and Lu Shaozhong, head of the Beijing Sports and Science Institution, will officially sign an accord on exchange of sports science and information.

Originally, the ROK and China were expected to officially sign a government-to-government accord on sports exchange some time during this month. However, when Yi Chin-sam, minister of sports and youth, met Lu Shaozu, president of the Chinese State Physical Culture and Sports Commission during the winter Olympic Games in Albertville last February, the Chinese side proposed that separate protocols be signed first between the working-level officials, citing China's internal affairs as the reason. Our side agreed to do so.

With the two countries scheduled to sign the agreement on exchange of sports science and information, the ROK is expected not only to gain access to China's diving and gymnastic techniques—in which China is reputed to be the world's top—but also to advanced information from

Beijing Sports and Science Institution on sports science, such as acupuncture and moxibustion. The attainment of such information is expected to be of great aid to the development of domestic sports.

Also, with the two countries agreeing to sign an accord on exchange of sports coaches and selected athletes for training in different climates following the Summer Barcelona Olympics in July, sports exchanges are expected to begin in earnest.

To conclude this accord, four Chinese sports officials—Wu Shaozu, minister of State Physical Culture and Sports Commission; Wei Jizhong, director of International Liaison Department of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission and secretary general of the Olympic Committee; Lu Shaozhong, head of Beijing Sports and Science Institution; and Hou Shudong, chief of a section at the International Liaison Department of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission—will visit Seoul to discuss in detail the sports exchanges between the two countries. After this, they plan to visit the Korean business firms who sponsored the Beijing Asian Games and electronics manufacturers.

In particular, these officials reportedly will meet Kim Un-yong, executive member of the International Olympic Committee, to ask for his cooperation to help Beijing win in the bid to host the 2000 Summer Olympic Games.

*** Inter-Korean Trade, North's Economy Reviewed**

922C0115A Seoul NAEWOE TONGSIN in Korean
21 Feb 92 D1-D6

[Unattributed article: "Current State of Inter-Korean Economic Exchange and North Korean Economic Trends—Stage Set for Full-Fledged Joint Venture Business"]

[Text] Seoul, NAEWOE—According to the latest edition of the (?INFORMATION BULLETIN) published quarterly by the British journal THE ECONOMIST, the scale of inter-Korean trade approached \$200 million in 1991, catapulting the ROK to North Korea's fourth most important trading partner after the former Soviet Union, China, and Japan.

The publication, which carries a quarterly survey of the political and economic trends of various countries in the world, says that the volume of trade between North and South Korea totaled \$148 million in the period from January to the end of October in 1991, with North Korean exports to South Korea amounting to \$134 million and North Korean imports from South Korea, \$14 million.

The quarterly also reports that amid a critical oil and food shortage, North Korea imported only 45,000 tons of crude oil from the former Soviet Union in the first half of 1991 as against 440,000 tons of crude oil imported from the Soviet Union in 1990, forcing the Sungni Oil Refinery to close down temporarily. In addition, in 1990 North Korea imported 980,000 tons and 1.1 million tons of crude oil

from Iran and China, respectively. The quarterly says that North Korea must have provided arms to Iran in payment for the oil imports. The quarterly says China's demand that North Korea pay for its oil imports at the market price beginning in 1992 is expected to compound North Korea's economic difficulty, however. The quarterly also says that the South Korean Government is drastically shifting its policy toward the North in such a way as to refrain from causing a crisis in North Korea or to prevent a collapse of the North Korean establishment which might put a great burden on the South, and that North Korea in a shift of its attitude is showing interest in opening its economy and in carrying out joint ventures between two Koreas.

The quarterly further points out that inter-Korean trade has increased beyond expectation in scale and predicts that this trend of increase in economic exchange will accelerate partly because North Korea, in an economic bind, cannot but be interested in inter-Korean trade and partly because the South Korean Government's policy toward North Korea takes a positive view of such interest on the part of North Korea.

This trend is substantiated by the 20 January release of the Ministry of Trade and Industry [MTI] on inter-Korean trade in 1991. The volume of goods traded between North and South in 1991 totaled \$192.17 million, which is about eight times the 1990 volume of \$25,085,000. The total volume of inter-Korean trade since it got into gear following the announcement of the 7 July 1988 statement has reached \$240.6 million. According to the figures on inter-Korean trade in 1991, the South exported \$26.18 million worth of goods to the North and imported \$166 million worth of goods from the North, including three direct deals.

Shift From Indirect to Direct Trade

In 1991 there were a total of 118 contacts between North and South Korean businessmen to discuss inter-Korean joint venture and trade deals. This figure represents a tenfold increase from 11 contacts in 1990. The number of firms participating in trade increased 3.6 times to 130 from 36 firms in 1990.

The number of import shipments totaled 328, or a 400-percent increase from 75 shipments in 1990. The number of export shipments increased 10 times to 40 in 1991 from four shipments in 1990. By item, major export shipments consisted of \$11.4 million in chemicals, \$7.2 million in textiles, \$1.56 million in home appliances. On the import side, the main items consisted of minerals; fishery, agricultural, and forestry products, and raw silk whereas the export of nonferrous and steel goods amounted to \$72.8 million.

Inter-Korean trade has shown the following trends: first, the scale is expanding at a tremendous pace; second, as exports tend to increase in a shift from import-dominated trade, trade is moving toward balance; third, trade items are complementary to each partner; fourth, there is an increasing diversity in trade items as the number of firms participating in trade grows; fifth, cases

of direct trade are increasing in a shift from the indirect form of trade through third countries to direct trade.

Needless to say, the active economic policy of the ROK Government has contributed to the sharp increase in inter-Korean trade.

Nevertheless, the South Korean policy alone cannot promote inter-Korean exchange. The economic difficulties confronting North Korea and its recognition of the need to overcome them, combined with the relevant South Korean policy, have provided momentum. North Korea's communist trade partners, including the former Soviet Union, on which it most heavily relied on for trade, began to demand that North Korea shift to hard-currency settlement of its trade account, and this demand was bound to increase the pressure of economic hardship on North Korea, which was short of hard currency and materials.

Inter-Korean Trade Perked Up Since 7 July Statement

This situation inevitably put North Korea in a situation in which it found itself in need of increased trade with other countries. But, its inability to conduct smooth trade with other countries forced it to get interested in inter-Korean trade.

When North Korea was importing materials from South Korea through third parties, although on a small scale, the South Korean Government issued the 7 July [1988] statement, further stimulating North Korea's interest in inter-Korean trade; and South Korea also embarked upon actively pushing for trade with the North. The result was increased inter-Korean trade. That is why it is pointed out that the factors responsible for the sharp increase in inter-Korean trade are the change in North Korea's attitude toward inter-Korean trade, its worsening economic hardship, and the exemption of North Korean imports from customs duties.

When the "North-South Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Exchange and Cooperation," signed last December, takes effect this coming February, a subcommittee on North-South exchange and cooperation will be established within a month and a joint committee on North-South economic exchange and cooperation will be organized within three months. Thus, with the year 1991 as a momentum, North-South material exchanges and joint ventures are expected to get into stride.

This prospect is backed up by the production of socks and bags by Kolon International Corp. in a joint venture with North Korea and the success of Lucky-Goldstar in opening direct barter trade with North Korea. Kolon provided socks-making machines to North Korea, and in return imported socks made with these machines and exported them to Europe. The money earned from the sale of socks is credited for the price of the machines. Kolon adopted this buy back method beginning last year.

Kolon International Corp. provided North Korea with a complete set of raw materials and supplies, along with the sample bags, for the production of bags under the original equipment manufacturing (OEM) system. This was the first instance of a combination of South Korean materials and supplies with North Korean processing skills.

Meanwhile, Lucky-Goldstar brought in 20,566 tons of North Korean anthracite coal on 4 February in return for its earlier delivery of 2,100 color television sets and 200 tons of low-density polyethylene (LDPE) film in Nampo Port. The deal was in the form of a barter.

Kim U-chung Invited To Discuss Economic Cooperation

This exchange was the first segment of the barter deal approved last November in which 100,000 tons of North Korean anthracite coal and South Korean goods of the equal value were to be exchanged between the North Korean firm called Korea Yongnam Chemical Joint Venture Company, and Lucky-Goldstar. Last year rice was shipped to North Korea in the first direct barter deal, but the deal has not been completed because North Korea has yet to deliver its goods in return for the rice shipment. In this sense, the Lucky-Goldstar deal in practice marks the first direct barter trade between North and South.

The prospect for full-fledged inter-Korean trade is substantially backed by the results of the visit to North Korea by Kim U-chung, chairman of the Daewoo business group. The background of this visit in itself substantiates that prospect. Chairman Kim U-chung did not visit North Korea in a private capacity and at his own initiative to sound out the possibility of economic exchange, but he went there on a formal invitation from North Korean Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon and in his capacity as a leading South Korean businessman.

During his stay in North Korea, Chairman Kim met the vice ministers in charge of 12 different economic sectors—such as electronics, trade, tourism, finance, heavy industry, sewing, fisheries, machinery, and metal—in addition to Kim Il-song, Premier Yon Hyong-muk, Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon. These officials, accompanied by experts in their respective ministries, described in detail the current state of North Korea's industry and reportedly discussed specific ways of cooperation. Reportedly, Chairman Kim visited the Sariwon cotton textile mill, the Songyo garment factory in Pyongyang, the Moranbong television factory, the Tokchon Sungni automobile factory, the Kusong machine tool factory in North Pyongan Province, the Unpa mine in Hwanghae Province, the Songnam colliery, and the Wonsan fishery processing plant. He also toured the Haesu and Nampo areas.

Chairman Kim U-chung is said to have met with the North Korean Government officials on three areas of cooperation, namely, the construction of light industry joint venture factories in 12 industrial sectors including a sewing factory, the joint development of North Korea's underground resources, and the joint advance into the construction and manufacturing sectors in third countries.

In addition, for joint North-South ventures an agreement was reached in principle on the question of building an industrial estate with a space of 2 million pyong in Nampo for the exclusive use of North-South joint ventures. Both sides also agreed to actively push for the construction of Braun tube and refrigerator plants.

The two sides agreed to build nine joint venture factories in the Nampo industrial estate, such as dress shirt, blouse, jacket, bag, shoe, knitwear, cotton textile, sewing, toy, and tableware factories, and even set an annual production capacity for each product. All this points to the bright prospect of inter-Korean economic exchange.

Still Murky Political, Legal Guarantee

In view of the need for North and South Korea to build the foundation of coexistence and mutual development together, these visible developments in inter-Korean economic exchange will provide an opening for, and herald a new age of, inter-Korean economic cooperation. Still, it is a fact that there are many problems that need be addressed in promoting inter-Korean economic exchange and cooperation.

The first problem involves the North Korean economic system.

North Korea, too much concerned about self-sufficiency in production without the benefits of technological exchanges with foreign countries, is lacking in the concept of cost. As a consequence, it is lagging behind in technology and its products have a low profitability. As a matter of fact, its productivity is also low. Moreover, inasmuch as North Korea was accustomed to the trading method prevalent in the communist block, its lack in the concept of market economy also poses a problem.

For this reason, experts say risks will be heavy in making investments in the heavy industry sector which requires a large capital outlay.

The factory in the suburbs of Pyongyang which produced bags for Kolon International Corp. also has experience in producing bags by processing materials supplied from Germany, Poland, and other European countries and shipping back the finished products on a contract basis. It takes North Korea four months to process materials and ship back finished products to its Southeast Asian clients. But in Kolon's case, the bag production took five months, or one month longer, indicating that there is also a problem involving the time required for delivery.

In addition, it took 20 days for the shipment from the North to clear the customs in Pusan Port after its arrival, due to the incomplete export documents. So, there is also a procedural problem.

The second problem involves the legal system related to economic exchange and cooperation.

The typical case is the joint venture law. This law provides that foreigners or overseas Koreans may be eligible for partnership in joint ventures. Accordingly,

when North Korea seeks a joint venture with a South Korean firm, it needs either to revise this law or enact a special law permitting an exception to this rule.

There are no clear provisions dealing with the remittance of the profit and similar matters. Neither are there any specific provisions concerning foreign exchanges, including their liberalization. All this points to the necessity of supplementing existing laws or enacting new laws as a preliminary step to economic exchange and cooperation. In addition, the problem of concluding agreements on trade, investment guarantee, and the prevention of double taxation is also an equally important issue in economic exchange and cooperation.

The third problem involves the creation of an environment which will enable North Korea to push for joint ventures with firms from capitalist countries.

In a society where politics dominates every aspect of life, there is no guarantee for enterprises to secure their operation and their future. Naturally, as long as there is the danger of political power controlling joint ventures, would-be investors will hesitate to invest.

What is more, North Korea ranks 89th in worldwide credit ranking and 91st in the ability to pay foreign debts, according to a country risk survey conducted by Japan Public and Private Debts Research Center.

In Daewoo's case, the venture projects agreed upon are in those categories which do not need to bring in technical personnel from the South, and the agreement to build an industrial estate in Nampo was prompted by North Korea's desire to avoid personnel exchange. In the last analysis, for fear of personnel exchange, North Korea is bound to push for special economic zones, and this stance may be regarded as a bottleneck which makes it difficult to expect a radical breakthrough in economic exchange and cooperation.

*** Plans To Boost Foreign Investment Studied**

922C0114A Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN
in Korean 15 Feb 92 p 3

[Article by reporter Ko Kwang-chol: "A Move Is Under Way To Induce High-Technology in the Manufacturing Sector—Background Study Being Made on Measures To Boost Investments by Foreigners"]

[Text] Various measures to induce more investments from foreign firms (foreigners' investments) are currently under study. Foreign investment invigoration measures studied at the initiative of the Finance Ministry assess the opinions of the Economic Planning Board and the Ministry of Trade and Industry. They include these diverse plans: reducing the list of industries in which foreign investments are banned, providing support for local government efforts to induce foreign investments, and establishing industrial complexes exclusively for foreign investors.

The Finance Ministry's study of measures to increase foreign investments in our country was prompted by a sharp decrease in foreign investments, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

After peaking at 362 cases in 1987, investments by foreigners thereafter gradually declined to 342 cases in 1988, 296 cases in 1990, and 287 cases in 1991.

On the surface, foreign investments in 1991 appeared to be brisk totalling \$1,396 million, up \$600 million from the preceding year. But, this increase was largely due to the \$400 million investment by ARAMCO, a Saudi oil refining company, in a joint venture with Sangyong Oil Refining Co. If this joint venture investment is excluded from the calculation, foreign investments in 1991 in reality remained flat in terms of the amount invested.

Particularly important in the general decreasing trend of foreign investments is the striking pace of decreases in foreign investments in the manufacturing sector. Foreign investments in the manufacturing sector dropped from 321 cases in 1987 to 272 cases in 1988, 194 cases in 1989, 136 cases in 1990, and 109 cases in 1991.

This means that foreign investments in the manufacturing sector plummeted by 60 percent in the period from 1987 through 1991. On the other hand, foreign investments in the service sector increased five times in four years from 36 cases in 1987 to 178 cases in 1991. The boom in foreign investment in the service sector contrasts with the doldrums in the manufacturing sector.

In the manufacturing sector, the decrease in high-tech investments was conspicuous. The percentage of foreign investments in tax-exempted high-tech to the total foreign investment dropped from 19.6 percent 1988 to 4.1 percent in 1990 and 2.0 percent in 1991.

By a coincidence, investments from Japan, on which our firms rely relatively heavily for technological know-how, has noticeably decreased. Japanese corporate investments in Korea dropped by half from \$497 million in 1987 to \$226 million in 1991.

With the sharp decrease in foreign investments in the manufacturing sector, particularly in the high-tech field, benefits of technology transfer from foreign investments are also diminishing. Despite the urgency of introducing high-tech from advanced nations, cases of high-tech imports have been decreasing due to technology protectionism; and adding insult to injury, foreign investments have also been on the decline, compounding problems related to technology transfer.

Given the circumstances in which the efforts of domestic firms to develop technologies on their own are inadequate, when it becomes difficult for them to improve technology through the indirect method of technological transfer from abroad, they can hardly expect to secure an industrial competitive edge.

Unless our industrial competitiveness is recovered, we can hardly expect to improve international payments

and stabilize prices, the two most important economic problems. It is the position of the Finance Ministry, therefore, that it is urgent to promote technology transfers, the key to securing competitiveness, by way of increasing investments by foreigners.

To find ways to invigorate foreign investments, it is necessary first of all to delve into the causes of the slump in foreign investments. According to a Finance Ministry analysis, the following are the causes of the slump in foreign investments: the high rate of wage increases, persisting unstable labor-management relations, and difficulties in locating plant sites due to rising real estate values.

These problems are shared by our domestic firms and cannot be improved solely for foreigners. If we are to find a way, providing tax benefits in favor of foreign investors may be one option. But, this option can hardly be expected to be utilized for the sake of fairness to both domestic and foreign firms.

Despite its emphasis on the need for increasing foreign investments, the Finance Ministry has so far been unable to find a distinctive option and is now delving into the areas where there is room for improvement in the investment environment and system.

One way of improving the investment system currently under study is reducing the list of industries in which foreign investment is banned. The Finance Ministry is studying ways to lift the ban on foreign investment in the following categories: power generation, hospitals (non-hospital medical services excluded), printing, and book publishing. Increased foreign investments are needed in the power industry to expand power generating facilities, and in hospitals to expand medical facilities. But many difficulties are anticipated before a definite plan is adopted because other ministries concerned oppose reducing this list, except for the power generating industry.

The ministry is also studying ways to have local governments select industries suitable to their local peculiarities and actively induce foreign investments in these industries. The idea is that when local governments, with the implementation of local autonomy as a momentum, actively strive to induce foreign investments to their respective areas, the government will look into various means for providing support.

Also under study is a plan to establish industrial complexes exclusively for foreigners.

Foreign firms are reluctant to set up factories because land prices and rents are very high. For this reason, the Finance Ministry is studying a plan to create industrial complexes exclusively for foreigners on reclaimed tideland in the Asan Bay and other coastal areas so that they may operate in these complexes with low rents. The Trade and Industry Ministry is taking a negative view of this plan on the grounds that industrial complexes built for domestic firms are in oversupply and it will not be easy to raise funds for the construction of such complexes.

The ministry's concerns are not fully in favor of the plans being studied by the Finance Ministry to invigorate foreign investments, and nobody knows what the final plans will be.

In some quarters of the economic community, there is the opinion that improving the foreign investment system would not help much, but foreign investments can be increased only when the domestic economic conditions are improved. They point out that when we consolidate the foundation of economic stability through stable prices and wages while maintaining a continuing substantial growth, foreign investments will naturally increase.

* Kim Pok-tong's Political Ambitions Examined

922C0076 Seoul CHUGAN MAEGYONG
in Korean 4 Dec 91 pp 42-43

[Article by reporter Yi Ki-tong: "Kim Pok-tong Is Busy Lobbying Behind the Scenes with Financial Sectors. Is National AMP Association Kim's Private Organization?"]

[Text] Kim Pok-tong's [chairman of the Research Institute on International Culture] activities have recently been conspicuous even among financial sectors. Political sectors have already singled him out as a man of political ambition and have been carefully watching his activities closely.

Kim, who is very politically oriented, drew attention when he showed up at the Hilton Hotel in Seoul around 1500 on 9 November. He was supposed to be attending a conference in the Chrysanthemum Room between 1500 to 1700, sponsored by the National Association of Graduates of the Advanced Management Program (AMP) of Business Schools, an organization of graduates of the top managers' training program in the nation's business schools. But, in reality, he was not a guest to the conference, but was rather the president of the association, who was supposed to preside over the conference.

Membership of the national AMP association consists of corporate presidents or chairmen who have completed or who are currently in the program. About 300 of them attended the conference that day.

In his opening address, Kim defined the current national economic status as a crisis, and expressed his views on how to overcome it. He bluntly said, "Unless the government and the people are united, we cannot win this economic crisis."

His comments were interpreted as follows: The major reason for the current economic crisis is the government's estrangement from the people.

He then emphasized, "The political sectors should focus all their efforts on collecting all the strengths of our people and try to overcome the crisis by the best possible policies." His speech sounded as though he was blaming the government and the political sectors, rather than the people, for the economic crisis. The whole audience appeared to fully agree with president Kim's opinion.

What is the relationship between Kim and the nation's top managers? What is the National Association of Graduates of the Advanced Management Program (AMP) of Business Schools really? Is it an organization for supporting Kim's political activities? Many questions remain unanswered.

I tried several times unsuccessfully to interview Kim personally. When I called him the first time at his office in Nonhyon-Dong, Kangnam-Ku, he was visiting the soldiers in the front-line areas. Kim went to visit the front-line soldiers with the members of the Song-baikhwe, a private club of retired military generals of which Kim is the president. He was also unavailable when I called him for the last time for an interview. He was visiting his hometown of Taegu, according to his close associates. The reason for his frequent visit to Taegu is obvious. He made up his mind to run for the 14th general election for the National Assembly from the East Taegu district and has been actively engaged in pre-election activities to obtain votes.

He is truly a busy man. Although he did not appear to be so to the outside, he must have been working very hard to achieve his goal in his life behind the scenes.

His close associates understood his ambition and followed him. They especially seem to have been attracted to him because he declared a neutral position in the military in the 12 December military coup in 1980 [led by former president Chon Tu-hwan] and did not join the Fifth Republic [that was established after the success of the coup]. His associates claim that it is an incident that reflects Kim's personal philosophy.

As a matter of fact, the relationship between Kim and the businessmen is closely related to the 12 December 1980 coup. After he was left out of the Fifth Republic by his own choice, he enrolled in the Advanced Management Program of the Seoul National University's (SNU) Business School in early 1982. After he learned management theories during the six-months program from SNU, he continued to study management science by enrolling in similar programs offered by Yonsei and Korea Universities. Through these AMP programs from three Universities, he met with many prominent businessmen and has been extending his personal relationships with them.

In general, the AMP programs last six months and the number of enrollment for each program ranges from 50 to 70. To be admitted to the program, applicants must be directors or above, if they are from large private industries; presidents or above, if they are from small and medium-sized companies; and generals, if they are from the military sectors. Applicants must also be of 40 years of age or above.

Kim Pok-tong's AMP training started in 1982 and ended in June 1987. During that time, he also finished the diplomatic and national security program offered by

Yonsei University's Graduate School of Public Administration. He got his Master's degree with a thesis entitled, "A Study of the National Development and Political and Administrative Leadership." He established the Research Institute for International Culture in May 1988 with financial aid from the businessmen he met in the AMP programs, and served as president. Kim, who retired early from his colorful military career, wasted no time in the 1980's during the Fifth Republic, to develop himself by studying economics and politics.

The direct connection with the national association of the AMP was made when he was elected as president of the SNU's AMP graduates association. The national AMP association was established in December 1989 and Kim also became the first president. Initially, the national AMP association was established by the graduates of SNU, Yonsei and Korea Universities. By adding eight more universities to its membership, it includes 11 universities currently, and its membership totals about 10,000.

Core members of the national AMP association are presidents and chairmen of the major industries. Among those are chairmen Yi Tong-chan of the Kolon group, Cho Ne-pyok of the Life Group, Kang Sin-ho of the Tong-a Pharmaceutical Company, Yi Chong-nok of Samik Housing, Kim Che-chol of Tongwon Industries, Yun Yong-hwan of the Taeung Pharmaceutical Company, Ho Chin-kyu of the Ilchin, Chong Su-chang of the Tusan Group, Yi Hwe-rim of Tongyang Chemical, Yi Meng-ki of Taehan Shipping Company, Cho He-hyong of Nara Planning, and Choi Hyo-sok of Yuwon Construction Company.

Others are Cho Chong-min, vice-chairman of the Life Group; Son Kyong-sik, president of Ankuk Fire Insurance; Choi Pyong-ok, president of Taehan Life Insurance; Min Pyong-chun, president of Tusan Foods; Chu Chin-kan, president of Sacho Industries; and Pang Te-yong, president of Samik Ceramics. Many retired military generals are also active in the national AMP association's activities: Paik Son-yop, Senior Advisor to the Korea Fujitsu; Pak Hi-to, director of Hyoam Research Institute; Choi Pyong-uk, Forestry Minister; and O Chapok, chairman of the Korea Textile Association. Song Pyong-sun, president of the Bank of Kwang-ju, is another core member.

Many chairmen and presidents of small and medium-sized companies are also members of the national AMP association. The association appears to be rising as an influential organization in national and social affairs, just like some other influential economic organizations.

There is a rumor that the national AMP association is a private organization for supporting political activities of Kim Pok-tong, who has been the president of the association for three consecutive years. His close associates denied the rumor, however, saying that the association is the only door of communication open to Kim Pok-tong, whose activities during the Fifth Republic had been severely limited. They said that Kim is paying special

attention to the association just because it happened to be an organization that consists of leaders of our nation whom he met on college campuses. They argue that the association is different from politically-motivated private organizations established by politicians.

Despite the denials from members of the association, there is the people's anticipation that the association will be a strong supporter of Kim Pok-tong's political activities. This anticipation will be clarified in the near future in relation to how Kim's political activities will unfold.

*** Business' Involvement in Elections Examined**

922C0103A Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean
10 Jan 92 p 7

[Article by reporter Chong Yong-mu: "Chong Chu-yong's Entry Shakes Political World"]

[Excerpts] Financiers Rushing To Vie For The 14th General Election

[Passage omitted] The entry into politics by rich businessmen is noteworthy in that it is happening at a time when practically few except those in the dissident activist camp seek entry into politics reflecting the current distrust in or indifference to politics on the part of the general public. [passage omitted]

In the past, a considerable number of personages in the dissident activist camp entered the political establishment first through the 13th general election and later by joining the opposition parties.

The founding of the chaebol-backed new party [National Unification Party (NUP)] arouses fears about money politics because the influential leader of a business group with no political basis is directly taking the lead in founding the party and is going to provide political funds, including the election campaign funds, for the new party. [passage omitted]

The government and opposition parties are showing a very negative response to the new party being organized by Chong Chu-yong. The DP [Democratic Party] fears that the bipartisan system will be weakened and the power of money will dominate the election.

On the other hand, the business community is supporting the new party at heart although it fears that the new party might stir controversy over special privileges to chaebol in particular and over money-power politics in general. A Federation of Korean Industries source said: "Prevalent in the business community is the feeling that politicians are failing to have productive discussions." A doyen of the business community responded: "It seems that Mr Chong decided to get involved in politics in person, seeing that the expectation on politics remains unfulfilled." [passage omitted]

But, the emergence of the new party is unprecedented because this time chaebol is directly plunging into the arena of political power play. In the past, businessmen

entered into politics on an individual basis, but the formation of this new party takes the form of linking a chaebol group to the political world.

Viewed overall, nevertheless, it was the DJP that let the power of money flow into the political world on a full scale during the 13th general election.

With government changeover scheduled to take place, the DJP nominated local businessmen to run for that election by replacing a considerable number of so-called new faces. It seems that the nomination of these businessmen was closely linked to the problem of raising political funds caused by the partial democratization of power. The businessmen who obtained National Assembly seats by running on the DJP [Democratic Justice Party] ticket includes the following: Yi Myong-pak's brother Yi Sang-tuk (Yongil-Ullung, president of Kolon), Kang Song-mo (Sodaemun A, Seoul, president of Rinnai Korea), Cho Yong-chang (Inchon West, representative of Tongyang Refractory), Yi Chong-mu (Taegu South, managing director of Taegu Department Store), Kim In-yong (Suwon A, Inyong Pharmaceuticals), Im Mu-yong (Puchon Central, representative of Tokyong Chemicals), Kwon Tal-su (Songtan-Pyeongtaek, representative of Hallim Indus), Yi Tok-ho (Tongduchon-Yangju, representative of Kumgang Corp), Chong Yong-won (Kuri, representative of Porim Corp), Pak U-pyong (Chongson, president of Samchok Tanzwa), Yu Ton-u (Andong, president of the Industrial Bank of Korea). Pak Tae-chun, chairman of the Pohang Steel Iron and Steel and Supreme Council member, is typical of those who get elected from the national constituency. [passage omitted]

In addition, with the general election near at hand, a considerable number of other rich businessmen are working the grass roots, and the DLP slate is expected to be packed with a much larger group of rich businessmen than the DJP slate in the 13th general election, which was criticized for being a "nomination dictated by the power of money."

Typical examples of these businessmen seeking entry to politics are: Kim Chae-kyom (Ulju, vice chairman of the Ssangyong Group), Kim Tong-kwon (Uisong, president of Ssangma Textiles), Yi Kyong-hui (Yongyang, board chairman of Panwol Industrial Complex), An Chon-hak (president of Korea Heavy Industries & Construction), and O Chang-sop (Yesan, president of Taesan Construction). In the metropolitan and provincial level assembly elections held last year, the DLP led the money-power election campaigns by nominating rich businessmen as candidates in droves.

On the other hand, the DP effort to draw more businessmen into its fold is not bearing a good result. So far, Kim Tong-kwan (Koesan, former president of Hanbo Steel) and Kim Won-kil (Tobong B, president of former Chongbo Co) are the only businessmen who have applied for the local DP chapter chairmanships.

Within the DP, rich businessmen like Kim Yong-to, Kim In-kon, Kim Chu-ho, Song Hyon-sop, and Yi Kyong-chae—who are all incumbent assemblymen from the

national at-large constituency—are making their utmost to have their own local constituencies. [passage omitted] A typical case of the switch from the national constituency to a local constituency is Assemblyman Im Chun-won, who won a National Assembly seat in the 12th general election from the national constituency, and in the subsequent 13th general election, was returned by running in the local constituency in Sodaemun, Seoul, is a typical case. [passage omitted]

The phenomenon of a chaebol-backed new party being born and an increasing number of businessmen joining the government and opposition parties is considered an outcome of the rising cost of politics and the tendency to distrust politics. According to Independent Assemblyman Yi Hae-chan's analysis, the astronomical campaign cost for the recent metropolitan and provincial level elections, combined with the soaring land and commodity prices in the past several years, has made it impossible for experts in other fields than the business community even to conceive the idea of participating in politics. He added, "the money power-backed new party poses a problem. How much money it will spend is not a problem, but the problem is that money comes from a single source." According to his judgment, he who controls the source of money is bound to exercise a unilateral influence on the organization and policies of the party.

A high-ranking DP official predicts that if the new party wins 10 to 20 seats, it will hold the casting vote for a constitutional amendment for the introduction of the cabinet form of government." He expressed the fears that if the cabinet system is introduced under that contingency, the new party will obtain some of the cabinet posts, thus paving the way for collusion between politics and business.

DP Assemblyman No Mu-hyon said: "The presence of many rich businessmen in the government party raises immediate fears about a money power-controlled election, in view of the ruling party's preference for money and power, but this presence itself has no great political significance. On the other hand, the emergence of a chaebol-backed new party is politically significant." He interprets the emergence of a chaebol-backed new party as an indication of the desperate attempt on the part the chaebol groups to protect its vested interests, having seen their cozy relations with politics which had lasted through the Fifth Republic shattered under public pressures in the early days of the Sixth Republic. [passage omitted]

It is too early to predict whether or not Chong Chu-yong's new party and the businessmen-turned candidates for National Assembly seats will accelerate the cozy relationship between politics and business. One thing is clear, however: the mass entry of businessmen into politics with the general election in the offing will have the effect of: 1) blocking personages with insufficient financial resources from entering into politics, 2) enhancing the cozy relationship between politics and business, thus raising fears about money-dominated elections.

* Military Personnel Management Reforms Viewed

922C0111A Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 14 Feb 92
p 2

[By reporter Kim Chae-hong: "Ending Discontent of Non-Military Academy Graduates Sought—Background and Facts of the Proposed 'Military Personnel Management Reform'"]

[Text] With the top military leaders now making official comments for the first time ever on the fairness issue in military personnel management, concerns are growing over whether there will be a breakthrough in correcting the imbalances in the screening of officers for promotion to general officer grade based on the training history of the officers (i.e., Military Academy, ROTC, officer candidate school or the Third Military Academy [TMA]).

Minister of National Defense Choe Se-chang at a monthly meeting on 13 February, his first since taking office, told Ministry of National Defense [MND] bureau and division chiefs: "We have been stressing the importance of fairness and consideration of specialty in personnel management but it was only in word. It can hardly be said that we actually have done something about it."

Earlier, Army Chief of Staff Kim Chin-yong—in a directive dated 1 February to all Army unit commanding officers of battalion-level or higher—banned forming cliques in the units based on individuals' training prior to commissioning, as well as parochialism and school relations.

These guidelines set forth separately by the MND minister and the Army chief of staff are seen as an effort to dispel the discontent among the so-called ordinary officers—namely, those from the officer candidate school, ROTC and TMA—over heavy discrimination against them in the appraisal process for promotion to general officer grade or major assignments.

Total numbers of officers commissioned to date are, by training background: Military Academy, 14,000; ROTC, over 10,000; officer candidate school, 45,000, and; TMA, over 40,000.

Of them, the approximate numbers of those promoted to general officer while in active service are: 270 Military Academy graduates, 54 officer candidate school graduates, and 27 ROTC-trained. As for TMA graduates, the top runners among its first-class graduates were promoted to colonel in 1988 and will, therefore, come within the range of possible promotion to general officer in 1995.

This means that of all those general officers, Military Academy graduates account for 77%, officer candidate school graduates 15%, and the ROTC-trained 8%.

Officers graduated from the Military Academy are, as everyone knows, products of the long-term training policy dedicated to building the bulwark of security for the nation.

The officer-candidate system was started in July 1950 in the wake of the outbreak of the Korean war as an emergency measure to fill a shortage of combat platoon leaders. Meanwhile, the ROTC system—first planned in early 1960 by the Liberal Party government that keenly felt the need for the training of junior-grade officers to boost the combat power—was put into effect by the Chang Myon-led Democratic Party government in the spring of 1961.

The TMA was established in 1968 as part of an emergency program to increase the nation's war potential as North Korea began showing signs of war provocations, including the sending of armed guerrillas into the South.

Of the non-Military Academy systems, only the ROTC is still functioning but the officer candidate school and TMA have been abolished. Presently, the number of ROTC-trained career officers is over 1,500. If one includes 8,000 to 9,000 first and second lieutenants whose terms of service are two years and three months, the total number comes to more than 10,000.

There are widespread complaints that non-Military Academy graduates have been discriminated against not only in the consideration for promotion to general officer but also with regard to major military assignments.

Of major generals or higher-grade officers currently heading MND bureaus and divisions, none are of non-Military Academy backgrounds. The situation is the

same with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Of major generals or higher-grade officers presently serving in the major staff officer posts, only one is a non-Military Academy graduate. The situation in the United States—whose ROTC system we imitated—offers a striking contrast.

The total number of generals and admirals in the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force is 1,056. Of this number, 60%-70% are ROTC-trained and the remaining 30%-40% are West Point graduates, Officer Candidate School (OCS) graduates and others.

The numbers of officers at the time of commissioning are: West Point graduates 3,000, ROTC-trained 8,000, OCS graduates 3,000, and others approximately 3,000. This indicates that in the United States, the ROTC system, not its regular military academy, represents the mainstream in the military. Promotions to general officer grade are granted on the basis of numerical proportions of officers by their training backgrounds. According to a political scientist, this constitutes one of the factors making civilian control over the military possible.

When it is accepted that officers of different training backgrounds have different characteristics in their capabilities for war potential development, overall judgment and field combat power, and when an effective manpower composition is secured by combining these strengths in a balanced manner, the nation's war potential can be strengthened to the maximum. This is the view of many theorists of military strategy.

Burma**Foreign Radio Stations Blamed for Border Problem**

*BK0904152592 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 9 Apr 92*

[Text] The VOA broadcasting station in its 1800 broadcast on 8 April alleged that Myanmar [Burmese] soldiers massacred about 200 Myanmar Muslims at a mosque during a religious ceremony in Maungdaw, Rakhine [Arakan] State.

These allegations were made to create undesirable circumstances between Myanmar [Burma] and Muslims from various parts of the world.

The Information Ministry has refuted these allegations as totally false and groundless.

The VOA broadcasting station is always making allegations against Myanmar and this news is baseless and one-sided.

Some foreign broadcasting stations, including the VOA, have made repeated allegations against Myanmar, with the intent of disintegrating the nation and timed in accordance with the prevailing situation even before the 1988 incident.

Similarly, during February 1992 the allegations regarding the Bangladesh border situation created misunderstandings with countries in some regions, some Western countries, and international organizations.

To refute the allegations and to see the true situation, ambassadors, defense attaches, and local and foreign journalists were taken to the Myanmar-Bangladesh border villages on 29 March to study the true situation there and to meet the local populace.

Similarly, Mr. Jan Eliasson, UN undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs, and party also studied the true Myanmar-Bangladesh border situation on 3 April.

Thus, news concerning Myanmar carried by some foreign broadcasting stations, including the VOA, are deliberate allegations with intent to cause the destruction of Myanmar.

Commission Revokes Status of Four NLD MP's

*BK0904153992 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 9 April 92*

[Announcement No. 1,016 of the Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar, dated 9 April 1992]

[Text] Subject: Nullification of the status as People's Assembly representatives of four persons who infringed upon Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Election Law.

1. The following persons elected as People's Assembly representatives for the National League for Democracy [NLD] during the multiparty democratic general election

on 27 May 1990 have been convicted under Section 5A, 5B, and 5J of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act

A. U Saw Chit Than, PN000001, Pa-an township constituency-1, Karen State

B. U Hla Pe, ISN416322, Launglon township constituency-1, Tenasserim Division

C. U Tin Aye, ISN448361, Mandalay Northeast township constituency-2, Mandalay Division

D. U Khin Maung Tun, MMO252194, Hmawbi township constituency-2, Rangoon Division

2. Hence, they have infringed upon Section 11J of the People's Assembly Election Law and no longer have the right to continue to be People's Assembly representatives and their status as elected representatives has been nullified.

3. It is also hereby announced that in accordance with Section 80B of the People's Assembly Election Law, the four persons mentioned above shall no longer have the right to run for elections in the next 10 years effective today.

By the authority vested in me,

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

11 Kgs of Heroin Seized in Mandalay 7-8 Apr

*BK0904160592 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 9 April 92*

[Text] The state has been performing drug suppression activities as a national duty and is increasing its momentum. Thus, some heroin were seized by military intelligence personnel and the people's police force special narcotics squad in Mandalay on 7 and 8 April.

According to a tip-off, a combined team of military intelligence personnel and special narcotics squad raided room No. 12 of the Dollar Guest House at 33d Street, Mandalay Northeast Township, at 1800 on 7 April. They seized 8.9 kgs of heroin, kept in a blue plastic container, from Sai Myat, son of U Kan Myint, of 2d Ward, Kyu-hkok.

Similarly, due to a tip-off, military intelligence personnel, special narcotics squad, and ward law and order restoration council members of West Pyigy Sithu Ward, Mandalay Northeast Township, while waiting near 82d Street in Mandalay, stopped and searched a suspicious white Toyota Corolla, registration No. Balachiek 8376, at 1300 on 8 April. They seized 2.207 kgs of heroin, hidden in four Molla brand engine oil containers, from driver Kye Aik alias Kyi Aye, 18 years of age, son U Yan Kyin Ohn of 5th Ward, Lashio, and Lauk Aye, 29 years of age, son of U Yan Lauk Hpa from Kutkai.

Legal action has been taken against those responsible and further investigations are being made to arrest those involved.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Sultan Azlan Visits Austria; Meets Waldheim

Environmental Efforts Praised

*BK0904061292 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0407 GMT 9 Apr 92*

[By Juliana Omar]

[Text] Vienna, April 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Austria has expressed support for Malaysia's efforts to counter the environmental threat jointly with other countries of the world.

Its president Dr. Kurt Waldheim said Austria took note of Malaysia's concern over the environment and strongly supported efforts towards a successful conclusion of the forthcoming United Nations conference on environment and development (UNCED) in Brazil.

Austria hopes that this conference will be held in a spirit of mutual cooperation rather than in one of confrontation, he added.

He was speaking at a state banquet held here last night in honour of the Malaysian King, Sultan Azlan Shah and Queen Tuanku Bainun who are paying a four-day visit to Austria, the first by a Malaysian head of state to that country.

Dr. Waldheim said Austria and Malaysia shared a common commitment to human rights and democracy as well as the conviction that sustainable development in third world countries must form part of the new world order.

He also highlighted the important contributions made by Malaysia to various tasks of the United Nations.

Your country has played an active role during its term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council and has distinguished itself during its chairmanship of the Group of 77, he said.

Important conferences like the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 1989 as well as the summit meeting of the Group of 15 in 1990 underscored the increasing role played by Malaysia in international affairs, he added.

Dr. Waldheim said that the two countries had always been friendly with cooperation increasing in various fields.

He gave the assurance that Austria would continue to strengthen and intensify ties with countries outside Europe in spite of the attention being given to Europe's integration and the urgent need to support the new democracies.

Help Offered in Penetrating Markets

*BK0904113292 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia
in English 0800 GMT 9 Apr 92*

[Excerpt] Austria has offered to help Malaysia penetrate markets in Eastern Europe with which it has close relations. Malaysian Foreign Ministry Deputy Secretary General Datuk Abdul Halim Ali said Austrian President Dr. Kurt Waldheim made the offer to His Majesty the King Sultan Azlan Shah during their meeting in Vienna yesterday. Dr. Waldheim suggested that Malaysian businessmen and companies enter into joint ventures with Austrian enterprises to [words indistinct].

Datuk Abdul Halim said Hungary and Czechoslovakia were among the countries mentioned as having potential for market penetration. He told newsmen in Vienna that the king expressed hope that more Austrian companies would invest not only in Malaysia but also in other ASEAN countries. Total trade between the two countries stands at U.S. \$1 billion. [passage omitted]

New Defense Forces Chief Assumes Command 10 Apr

*BK1004075292 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0653 GMT 10 Apr 92*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 10 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Gen. Hashim Mohamed Ali Friday handed over command as Malaysia's chief of Defence Forces to Gen. Yaacob Mohamed Zain in a ceremony at the Defence Ministry here.

Witnessed by military top brass and civilian officials of the ministry, Gen. Hashim, who officially becomes a civilian after midnight, signed and exchanged handing-over documents with Gen. Yaacob.

The four-star general also handed over his baton of command to his successor.

Singapore

Former SRV Party Chief Pays Unofficial Visit

*BK0804103292 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES
in English 8 Apr 92 p 40*

[Text] Former Vietnamese party chief Mr. Nguyen Van Linh yesterday kicked off his five-day unofficial visit to Singapore with a courtesy call on Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew in the afternoon.

Today, he will visit Changi International Airport and the Port of Singapore Authority.

He will also attend a series of briefings by officials from the Economic Development Board, Trade Development Board, and Housing Board.

A spokesman for the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam told THE STRAITS TIMES that Mr. Linh will move on to Malaysia on Sunday.

The embassy said his visit was a "private one" and declined requests for a press interview.

It was earlier reported that Mr. Linh, who is now a special adviser to the Communist Party's Central Committee, will be in Singapore "in search of economic tips."

Since losing Soviet aid and preferential trading with the old Soviet bloc last year, Vietnam has turned to its Asian neighbours for new economic links, with Singapore being looked upon increasingly as an effective economic model.

Senior Minister Lee said last week that he had accepted an invitation to visit Hanoi to discuss the country's economic programme with Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

The visit is reportedly scheduled for the end of this month.

Cambodia

SNC Delegation 'Warmly Greeted' in Beijing

BK0804132892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Cambodia's high-ranking delegation headed by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, accompanied by the princess consort, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, prime minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC], and other important members of the SNC, was warmly greeted at Beijing airport by China's labor minister and deputy minister of foreign affairs after making a technical stopover in Kunming, Yunnan Province, where it was cordially welcomed by high-ranking officials of the province.

A delegation of our SOC headed by H.E. Hun Sen, SOC prime minister, paid a visit to Shanghai on 8 April. It will return to Beijing on 9 April.

Delegation Meets PRC President

BK0904132492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 92

["Latest news"]

[Text] After spending one night in Shanghai where it visited major economic sites, at 1310 on 9 April the delegation composed of His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, H.E. Son Sann, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the representative of Democratic Kampuchea, and their entourage safely returned to Beijing.

The delegation led by His Royal Highness the head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council met with President Yang Shangkun of the PRC at the Great Hall of the People on the evening of 9 April.

Creation of Neutral Political Climate Urged

BK1004051492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Political commentary: "On the Issue of Ensuring a Neutral Political Environment in Cambodia"]

[Text] The guarantee of a neutral political environment in Cambodia during the transition is vitally important for the use of rights to self-determination by the people under the UN peace plan. The UN mechanism known as the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] has to play a pivotal role in ensuring Cambodia's neutral political environment, which is indispensable for guaranteeing fair and just elections in the country. The elections—the final stage of the UN peace plan—are crucial for the destiny of the entire Cambodian nation, because their result will decide to whom the nation's destiny will be entrusted. As such, it is most rational that every party should allow the United Nations to carry out its task to the utmost to ensure a neutral political climate in Cambodia in compliance with the provisions of the Paris 23 October peace accord. If any party opposes or maneuvers to directly or indirectly hold up the peace plan or misinterpret the plan's just objective, that party will be recognized as the saboteur of the Cambodian people's aspiration.

To date, assassination and attempted murder of opposition political leaders have created a frightening climate throughout Phnom Penh city and some provinces in Cambodia. The scheme to resort to heinous crimes is aimed at threatening and restraining the Cambodian people from expressing their own desires in the forthcoming elections in the country. Those activities are running counter to the peace plan, which aims to provide a just foundation for the people in choosing their own destiny after experiencing injustice and suffering for over two decades. Therefore, to create the neutral political environment for guaranteeing the people's freedom of expression, the United Nations has to control the five ministries in the country as specified in the UN plan, and the people should be allowed to assist the world body in discovering and arresting the groups that unremittingly try to destroy the objective of the peace plan, which favors the creation of a neutral political climate for the elections in Cambodia.

We have seen that the international community, through the United Nations, has spent over \$2 billion to salvage the Cambodian people, render justice to them via the implementation of the peace plan, and allow them to have the opportunity to establish a Cambodia with independence, neutrality, and sovereignty. As such, the Cambodian people themselves should lend the United Nations a hand at this crucial stage of our nation.

Consultations Between UNTAC, SNC Urged

BK1004020392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Apr 92

[“Station article:” “It Is Imperative That the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the Supreme National Council Hold Consultations To Brush Aside all Main Obstacles To Bring the Paris Accord to a Complete Achievement”]

[Text] The provisions of the Paris accord on the functions of UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and SNC [Supreme National Council] specify that the two provisional authorities have to consult each other based on the objective of the 23 October accord. What is the objective of the Paris accord? It is to make way for foreign forces—that is, all categories of Vietnamese invading forces—to withdraw from Cambodia with the aim of restoring peace, independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, neutrality, and national unity of Cambodia, and allow the Cambodian people to enjoy their rights to self-determination through free and just elections.

However, the main obstacles to the objective have not yet been brushed aside.

1. On the issue of verifying the withdrawal of the Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general and head of the UNTAC, said at an SNC meeting on 1 April that the Vietnamese aggressor forces must be identified because they are the key issue of the implementation of the accord;

2. On the issue of demobilizing the armed forces of the four Cambodian parties, Akashi said he agreed with the Cambodian national resistance forces that all the Cambodian parties' armies have to be disbanded 100 percent. Nevertheless, the two issues have not been concretely resolved, except for a number of inspections of this or that area in western Cambodia. And yet, there is no balance in the deployment of monitoring forces in eastern Cambodia; and

3. A neutral political environment in Phnom Penh and across the country has not yet been established. The ongoing control by the Vietnamese and Phnom Penh of key sectors remains a threat to security and a neutral political climate in the capital city and provinces. The Vietnamese aggressor forces are still in control of all military and civilian departments, and specifically they continue to control and act as the A-3 police force.

Therefore, it is obvious that the transitional authorities continue to remain under Vietnam's control during the time the Paris accord has been in existence. This problem has posed a great danger to the implementation of the Paris accord and also directly affects the fate and future of the Cambodian nation and people. That being the case, it is imperative that UNTAC and SNC hold

consultations to remove all the major stumbling blocks once and for all with the aim of bringing the Paris accord to a complete achievement.

Phnom Penh Assembly Session Said Against Accord

BK0904013092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] The Supreme National Council [SNC] and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] held on 1 and 6 April earnest discussions on the correct implementation of the Paris accord in conformity with the significance of the accord itself.

In the meantime, the Vietnamese aggressors hurriedly performed another stage by organizing the so-called session of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly for the purpose of consolidating Vietnam's authority in Cambodia. As for Vietnam's propaganda apparatus, they also painstakingly made wide-spread publicity about the stage but kept mum about the aforementioned SNC-UNTAC sessions.

The session of Vietnam's National Assembly could be seen straightaway as a maneuver to oppose the process of implementing the Paris accord and the legitimate roles of the SNC and UNTAC.

The progressive results of the SNC-UNTAC meetings on 1 and 6 April clearly show that forces that motivate the execution of the accord have already made another step forward.

The Cambodian nation and people as well as the international community, which love peace and independence and which extend recognition only to the SNC and UNTAC, do not need any other authority during the transition, specifically any assembly or authority that the Vietnamese aggressors have propped up.

Assembly Said 'Legitimizing' SRV Invasion

BK1004033392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] On 6 April, Vietnam arranged a session of its assembly in Phnom Penh under the guise of resolving the issues of corruption and security, replacing this or that person, and so on. The Phnom Penh residents held that the session was a scheme concocted by Vietnam for the purpose of further legitimizing its aggression in Cambodia. The people questioned the nature and competence of the National Assembly:

1. The assembly has been set up by the Vietnamese in order to cover up their invasion and occupation of Cambodia; and

2. That being the case, can the assembly solve any problem with the presence of Vietnam's forces and A-3

Police force and the systematic plundering by the Vietnamese of the property belonging to the Cambodian people and nation.

The Phnom Penh residents are believe that every problem can only be resolved if the Paris accord is implemented through:

1. The verification by UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the four Cambodian parties of the withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor forces—including the Vietnamese living in Phnom Penh and various provinces—from Cambodia; and
2. The delegation of total power to the SNC [Supreme National Council] and the UNTAC during the transitional period prior to the selection of a new national assembly and a new government by the people through free and correct elections.

Success of National Assembly Session Hailed

*BK0904092392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT
7 Apr 92*

[Editorial from PRACHEACHON: "Energetically Hail the Success of the National Assembly's Extraordinary Session;" date not given]

[Text] The National Assembly of the State of Cambodia [SOC], the supreme organ of our state powers, recently held an extraordinary session in the presence of the National Assembly chairman, His Excellency Chea Sim, to discuss a number of urgent issues concerning legislative, administrative, and organizational matters.

Our country is now in the historic stage of implementing the 23 October 1991 peace agreement to bring about peace and national reconciliation for our beloved motherland and people. In the face of this situation, our SOC Government finds itself entrusted with a great and most heavy responsibility. The political and economic liberalization process conducted in conformity with democracy as well as the application of the peace agreement has created, and is creating, new and exceptional structures and requirements in all sectors. Our dynamic social realities have come to a new turning point, that of political pluralism in which many parties are to compete with one another in the forthcoming general elections. Therefore, everything seems to be indispensably calling for improvement and adjustment to conform with the evolution of the country and its social realities and to respond to the sacred aspirations and needs of our people.

During the first quarter of 1992 our national society plowed through many kinds of obstacles and difficulties. Our government has endured many critical political, economic, and social tests with remarkable patience and restraint. Although it has not been totally successful in dealing with problems concerning the livelihood of the general public—including the settlement of disputes on state employees' salaries, the social development process in general, and the

solution to the country's financial difficulties in particular—despite the fact that it has sought by all available means and possibilities to do so, our government has at least basically solved all of these problems, thus creating a springboard from which to advance toward completely eradicating all of them in the future.

During this extraordinary session, the quorum of our National Assembly debated through careful discussions and adopted nine laws concerning administrative control, freedom of press, activities of the Council of State, the National Assembly, and the Council of Ministers, and a number of other important issues to further consolidate the legality of our society in accordance with the political and economic liberalization process that is aimed at ensuring safety, stability, and social order and guaranteeing the interests, rights, freedoms, honor, and dignity of each citizen in the onward march of our national society embarking on the implementation of democracy, political pluralism, market economy, and respect for human rights. The National Assembly also examined and endorsed the adjustments made to certain state organizations and elected to replace four members of the Council of Ministers to enhance the effectiveness of our state's administrative work. The National Assembly observed that the responsibilities of the government under the current circumstances are immense whereas the capacity of our state remains limited. Under all circumstances, our government is resolved to do everything to further improve the situation and fulfill its duty toward the people. Our government will raise its banner high to combat negative phenomena and corrupt practices in national society through concrete measures and steps. Besides, the National Assembly also examined other problems concerning the implementation of the peace agreement which has been enjoying the support and assistance of the international community and is making energetic progress.

The brilliant success of our National Assembly's extraordinary session will most importantly contribute to further augmenting the great dynamism of our entire national society in carrying through all the tasks at this historic stage of our motherland. While expressing joy and delight at the outcome of our National Assembly's extraordinary session, all of us should reach consensus on the fact that under the current circumstances we still have to face most difficult and arduous tests. Consequently, there is nothing better for us than being patient and understanding and continuing to cooperate with and support the government while encouraging it so that together we can continue to brave a myriad of obstacles and difficulties in our advance toward successfully achieving peace for our motherland.

SNC To Sign UN Conventions on Human Rights

*BK1004061992 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0423 GMT 10 Apr 92*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 10—Cambodia's Supreme National Council will sign two United Nations

conventions on human rights later this month, AFP quoted the head of the UN peace-keeping operation in Cambodia as saying Thursday.

The council, on which all four Cambodian factions are represented, will sign the conventions April 20 when UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali visits Phnom Penh, Yasushi Akashi told reporters in Bangkok.

The documents are the convention on political and civil rights and the convention on economic, social and cultural rights, he said. Both stem from the 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and "once a country accedes to them they have the force of law."

"They are an important first step towards repatriation" of the 365,000 Cambodians now living in refugee camps inside Thailand, said Akashi, who heads the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

UNTAC is charged with keeping the peace in Cambodia, repatriating those who fled 20 years of warfare, leading the nation towards elections in late April or early May of next year, and starting the massive job of rebuilding the country.

Akashi reiterated statements made before leaving Phnom Penh earlier Thursday that UNTAC's early work has been hindered by the Khmer Rouge faction, which has refused to let UN troops into areas it controls.

UNTAC needs to survey these areas to prepare for demining and then for the repatriation of refugees, cantonment of disarmed soldiers and rebuilding the infrastructure, he said. This must be completed by early May if the verified cease-fire is to begin June 1, he said.

Akashi said he would review the situation with Butrus-Ghali when he visits Phnom Penh and if the communist guerrillas are still balking, UNTAC may take the matter to the UN Security Council before the end of April.

The five permanent members of the council drafted the peace accord the Cambodians signed last year in Paris, and would have the authority and ability to pressure the Khmer Rouge into complying, he said.

Chea Sim Signs Khmer New Year Day Guidelines

*BK1004075192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT
9 Apr 92*

[3 April "work guidelines" of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense National Council—read by announcer]

[Text] In accordance with the glorious customs and traditions of our people, the celebration of the traditional New Year Day for the year of the Monkey, 2536 of the Buddhist Era and 1992 A.D., will last for three days known as Sangkran—that is, the New Year Day on Monday, the 11th day of the waxing moon of the lunar calendar's fifth month or 13 April, exactly at 1512 in the afternoon; the Transient Day on Tuesday, the 12th day

of the waxing moon or 14 April; and the start of the new Year of the Monkey on Wednesday, the 13th day of the waxing moon or 15 April.

The celebration of this traditional New Year Day takes place at a time when we are implementing the 23 October Paris agreement which will lead toward peace, national reconciliation, and prosperity for our motherland. In order to enable the traditional New Year Day celebration to proceed joyfully in accordance with the traditions of the nation and to the religious belief of the people and with a high sense of gratitude toward our male and female combatants, relatives, ancestors, elders, and patriotic heroes who sacrificed physical, intellectual, and moral strength in the cause of the motherland, the Standing Committee of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD] National Council would like to issue a number of work guidelines as follows:

1. It is imperative through propaganda work to arouse and remind the masses of the rebirth of the motherland and Cambodian people and of the gains made by our national society over the past 13 years thanks to the might of our people's solidarity under the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and State of Cambodia [SOC] Government; and to make public opinion see the truth about and political line of the CPP and SOC Government, especially concerning religious affairs in which our regime is known for being the champion of the Buddhist revival and the restorer of the devastated monasteries, schools, and hospitals together with the infrastructures of our national society.

2. During these three days of Sangkran, temple officials and monastery committee members together with the Buddhist clergy should work to boost the role of Buddhism in society, namely the role of the monasteries and Buddhist monks in providing ethical instructions to the people so that monasteries deserve being the places of worship and veneration for the people from all strata and of all age categories, the places where they can make merit and take part in the traditional amusement.

The authorities and social organizations at all levels must create conditions for the people and Buddhist faithful to make merit in accordance with their customs and wishes, and must ensure order and provide safety for our people to the best of their ability.

3. As for financial donations or other alms that the faithful will offer to Buddhism during these three days, they must be used wisely and correctly by the temple officials and committee members of each monastery in the interest of Buddhism and society. It is imperative to avoid using these donations and alms for illegitimate purposes.

With the interests of Buddhism and those of the nation and people at heart, the Standing Committee of the KUFNCD National Council is confident that the authorities and social organizations in each locality will cooperate with Buddhist monks, temple officials, and monastery committee members with a high sense of

solidarity and responsibility in order to turn these guidelines into a concrete implementation that will enjoy the support of public opinion.

Phnom Penh, 3 April 1992

[Signed] Chairman Chea Sim, for the KUFNCD National Council

Exacerbated Situation in Kompong Thom Continues

Khmer Rouge Truce Violations Cited

BK0904142292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] The Khmer Rouge has fired a heavy barrage of more than 200 rounds of 120- and 85-mm artillery pieces against us between 0700 to 1200 on 4 April. This gross violation was perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge who took advantage of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] General Staff order instructing all armed forces units to suspend fire for one week as of 0000 on 1 April 1992. This order came at the request of French Lieutenant General Michel Loridon, deputy commander of the UN peacekeeping forces, to enable UNTAC [UN Transitional Authorities in Cambodia] to oversee the military situation in Kompong Thom Province. After shelling the positions of the Armed Forces of the State of Cambodia [SOC] faction at Phum L'ak in Kompong Svay District, the Khmer Rouge faction sent the infantry to raid and capture these positions from CPAF.

According to military sources, this cease-fire violation was provoked by the Khmer Rouge Division 616 which pounded the positions of the SOC faction at L'ak. The same sources added that recently the Khmer Rouge sent their forces, among them Divisions 612 and 607 and Fronts 1,001 and 1,003 [as heard], as reinforcements for Divisions 616, 302, 417, and 788 in an attempt to seize a number of positions from the SOC faction.

The current activities of the Khmer Rouge clearly show their warmongering ambitions and contempt for the UN-sponsored peace agreement.

More Khmer Rouge Attacks Reported

BK1004054292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0420 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 10—Khmer Rouge forces of Divisions 616 and 802, supported by mortar shelling opened attacks on the government strongholds in Chi Kok and O Pou in Kompong Thom Province.

According to the military source from the province, the attacks took place on April 7, 1992, killing two government troops and forcing the government forces to desert their strongholds.

On April 5, the Khmer Rouge blew up several sections of Road 12, 100 meters north of Koun Thnaot village,

where they stopped passengers travelling from the district town of Kompong Svay to Sala Visay village, the source said.

Kompong Thom governor, Lieutenant General Cheang Am, asked the military coordination group to make an urgent intervention in the incidents.

On April 6, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), together with the officers of the four factions, planned to survey Road 12, but they had to cancel their survey due to inaccessibility of Road 17, the source said.

SRV Ships 30,000 Mines

BK1004015692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Excerpt] According to a report from Kompong Thom Province, the Vietnamese aggressors from the Second Military Region in Kompong Cham Province on 5 April shipped 30,000 mines from the province to Sala Visay for use by their troops to further massacre the people in Kompong Svay District. The report also said that those specially designed mines cannot be located by detectors and that the Vietnamese invaders had ordered their forces in Kompong Thom Province to plant the mines on both sides of Route 12, around their positions and the people's villages, and near water sources. A great many villagers in Kompong Svay and Stoung Districts were killed by the mines, one after another. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

'Diplomatic Efforts' Urged Between Libya, U.S.

BK0904154792 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Indonesia condemns every terrorist act but believes that the dispute between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France over the aircraft explosion should be tackled by fully considering various diplomatic efforts in accordance with Article 33 of the UN Charter. According to a press release issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta this afternoon, settlement of the dispute through diplomatic channels, which is now still going on, is very important. Moreover, the International Court of Justice is still discussing the explosion of the Pan Am 103 aircraft in Lockerbie and the UTA 772 aircraft in Niger. The Indonesian Government, which is following the debate in the UN Security Council over the dispute between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France, calls on the disputing parties to consider the UN secretary general's suggestion that a peaceful settlement be achieved through diplomatic efforts.

Laos

Cooperation Treaty With Thailand Finalized 8 Apr

BK0904082492 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 8 April in Vientiane, Thongloun Sisoulit, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and Nikhom Tantemsap, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos, jointly signed an exchange of ratification on the Lao-Thai Amity and Cooperation Treaty.

The Lao-Thai friendship and cooperation treaty was signed in Bangkok on 19 February 1992. The ratification of the treaty was made by the Thai Government and signed by the then prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand on 16 March 1992. After that, the LPDR president gave his ratification for the treaty on 30 March 1992 following the consent of the Supreme People's Assembly on 18 March 1992.

The treaty has been in effect since the date of the signing of the exchange of ratification—8 April 1992.

Assembly Chairman Greets New Thai House Speaker

BK0804033492 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 8 Apr 92

[4 April greetings message from Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to Athit Urairat, speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand]

[Text] On the occasion of Your Excellency's election as speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand, on behalf of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and in my own name, I would like to convey greetings to Your Excellency. I wish Your Excellency good health and new success in performing your noble tasks to make a significant contribution to further strengthening the friendly relations and neighborly cooperation between the two countries—Laos and Thailand.

President Issues Two Decrees on Law Enforcement

BK0904121892 Vientiane KPL in English 0900 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Vientiane, April 9 (KPL)—Two presidential decrees on the enforcement of the law on the tribunal registration office and on the enforcement of the law on family records were issued here on April 6, 1992, by the president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane.

These two laws were endorsed at the seventh session of the People's Supreme Assembly (second legislature) on April 8, 1992.

Government Centralizes Land, Property Management

BK0904121692 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Vientiane, April 9 (KPL)—The Lao Government is now introducing a centralized management of land and property. This means the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning will directly be in charge of the land and property management, indicated director of Land and Property Department Khamphoun Atthanaphon.

The policy is to provide an equal opportunity in land and state property use, especially for cadres and public servants as well as their families to have houses to live.

Khamphoun said over the past year the land and house management had met with difficulties due to lack of official responsibility. This had resulted in the unfair distribution of the land and houses.

Defense Minister Attends Meeting in Champassak

BK0804142292 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Beginning on 6 April, Champassak Province convened a meeting to review and draw lessons from the second phase of experimental grass-roots building which was launched in (?Zone No. 6) of Phonthong District as a starting point.

The meeting will continue until 10 April with the participation of Choummali Sai-gnason, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and national defense minister, who is in charge of guiding grass-roots building at the central level; the governors of Bolikham-sai, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Champassak, Saravane, Sekong, and Attapeu Provinces; and (?officials of Vientiane Municipality.) In addition to representatives of the military and police commanders and district chiefs from more than 10 districts, more than 160 heads of grass-roots units in the experimental zone in Champassak Province also attended the meeting.

The meeting will hear reports from the grass-roots building units on the various aspects of the execution of grass-roots building work in the experimental zone to draw lessons for the implementation of this work in the future in the central and southern provinces as well as in Vientiane Municipality. The participants will also hear a lecture given by Choummali Sai-gnason on various fundamental issues dealing with grass-roots building throughout the country aimed at gradually improving social order and security of the country.

Philippines

'Shoot Out' Claims in Barnes Freeing Denied

HK1004051492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Acting Justice Secretary Eduardo Montenegro today will receive a report from the National Bureau of

Investigation [NBI] on the rescue of American businessman Michael Barnes. The report says that despite claims that gunfire was heard, there was no shoot out between the police and the victims. The NBI conclusion is based on statements made by witnesses. The Justice Department will probe the NBI findings to determine whether to file criminal charges against members of the police involved in the rescue operation.

Aquino Against Suspension of Peru's Constitution

HK0904133092 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1300 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino is said to be against Peruvian President Fujimori's suspension of the his country's constitution and the dismantling of the Peruvian Congress.

Here is Tanny Rodriguez with the details:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] President Aquino, in a press statement, said that this step undertaken by the Peruvian president is a renunciation of Peru's democracy. According to the president, the whole world is aware of Peru's deteriorating peace situation, especially regarding the violence wreaked by terrorists and drug traffickers; however, these issues cannot be used by Fujimori to justify the steps he has taken.

The president hopes this crisis maneuver by the Peruvian president is only temporary, and that democracy will be restored in the near future.

Aquino expressed concern over this situation fearing that the Philippine experience, where a lack of checks and balances had led to an authoritarian system, may also happen in Peru.

The president said the entire Filipino nation is one with the Peruvian people in their prayers for peace in their country. [end recording]

Marcoses To Defy Government on Return of Body

HK1004041992 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Former First Lady Imelda Marcos says she is prepared to be jailed as long as the corpse of her husband, former President Marcos, can be brought back home. This was Mrs. Marcos' response to the announcement by Malacanang that the corpse can be brought back only after the 11 May election. Earlier, the government had said Mrs. Marcos could bring the body back if it was taken directly to Laoag City and buried. This was the condition set by the government after receiving assurances that the corpse would not be used for political purposes. However, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon now says the country's stability and security must not be jeopardized during this tense election campaign period. He said that the former president could be shown respect and given a proper burial after the election.

Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos Jr has expressed shock at the government's decision on the early return of his father's corpse. He said his family has been following the conditions set by the administration, however it continues to oppose the return of the corpse from Hawaii. Marcos lawyer Dean Antonio Coronel vows that the family will bring the body back on Sunday. In this connection, Attorney Oliver Lozano says that thousands of Marcos loyalists will gather at Laoag International Airport on Sunday to receive the Marcos corpse. The Marcos family plans to bring the body back on board a chartered plane and bury it on 21 April.

Meanwhile Malacanang says there is no need to declare a red alert this Sunday in connection with rumors about the return of the Marcos corpse. Press Secretary Horacio Paredes emphasized that this move is not necessary because the administration does not believe the Marcos family can carry out their plan. He added that no airline would dare bring the body back, because it risks confiscation or a ban by the government. Paredes also said the corpse could not be removed from the Temple of the Valley in Hawaii without a consular seal signed by the Philippine consul general.

Meanwhile Mrs. Imelda Marcos will not go to fetch her late husband's body from Hawaii. She said this through her lawyer Dean Antonio Coronel, adding that she is suspending her campaign activities to attend to burial preparations for her late husband.

The American Government does not oppose the plan to take the Marcos body back to the Philippines. This was stated by Attorney Coronel, who said that the plan will push through. He emphasized that the Philippine Government has no right to confiscate the former president's body if it is brought back without permission. He said the present administration could do this if it wanted to. [sentence as heard]

Meanwhile the Commission on Elections [Comelec] says the Constitution will not be violated if Marcos' body is returned to the country. The Comelec says its jurisdiction only extends over matters dealing with the coming election, not over issues of morality. The Comelec stated that if Mrs. Marcos brings her husband's corpse back, the commission cannot interfere with this. The commission also said it believes Mrs. Marcos will not use the corpse for the purpose of helping her candidacy; if she does, the commission will disallow this.

Meanwhile the strike by the country's air traffic controllers could possibly hinder the planned return of the Marcos corpse. Should the plan push through, it is certain to cause problems at the airport.

Corpse To Be Returned 12 May

HK1004085892 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] The remains of former President Ferdinand Marcos will be brought home to the Philippines on 12 May and not

on 12 April. In an interview with DZRH, (Sol Vanzi), Mrs. Marcos' official spokesman, said the former first lady has decided to bring home her husband's remains a day after the national and local elections.

(Vanzi) added that although Mrs. Marcos was hesitant to make this decision, the former first lady, nonetheless, decided to comply with Malacanang's resolution allowing the return of her husband's remains only after the 11 May polls.

Here is (Vanzi's) statement:

[Begin (Vanzi) recording] Mrs. Marcos, in a news conference here in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, this morning, announced that she has decided to bring home former President Marcos' corpse on 12 May, a day after the presidential election. [end recording]

Meanwhile, (Vanzi) also denied reports that Mrs. Marcos plans to withdraw from the presidential race. She said the former first lady, contrary to rumors of her withdrawal, remains as unwavering in her presidential aspiration as with her determination to fulfill her husband's dying wish to be buried in his homeland.

[Begin (Vanzi) recording] Malacanang's refusal to allow the return of the former president's corpse only served to intensify her determination to push through with her presidential candidacy. [end recording]

Military Opposes Freeing Detained Candidates

HK1004044992 Quezon City MALAYA in English
10 Apr 92 p 6

[By Noel Bartolome; italicized passage published in Tagalog]

[Text] The Defense Department and the armed forces opposed yesterday a Commission on Elections order to release two detained rebel officers who are running in the May 11 polls.

Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa said the Comelec failed to consult with the military establishment before adopting a resolution which granted former Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina and Maj. Wilhelm Doromal temporary liberty to enable them to campaign.

Abenina is running for senator under the Nacionalista Party while Doromal is seeking a seat in the Baguio City Council under the People's Reform Party.

"This is really a surprise for me. The Comelec decision apparently came from nowhere. We had a meeting with Comelec officials two days ago, and this was never brought up," De Villa said.

He said the defense department will appeal the decision of the Comelec, saying it is a government policy not to allow detained rebels to go out and campaign.

De Villa said the AFP had informed the Comelec about its position on detained rebel soldiers running for the elections.

"If we grant temporary freedom to detained rebels, the other detainees will also avail [as published] of the opportunity. Before we know it, *all those rebels should file their candidacy in the coming polls,*" he said.

Abadia said releasing the rebels would add to the burden of the military which must assign security men to them.

✓ Luzon NPA Offers Lenten Truce

HK1004045592 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 10 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] The communist New People's Army [NPA] yesterday said it is willing to observe a week-long "Lenten ceasefire" in Northern Luzon if the Armed Forces agrees to stop all military operations next week.

Noli Libertad, spokesman of the NPA Lt. Crispin Tagamolila Command, said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER that peace advocates are proposing a cessation of all hostilities in the region starting on Palm Sunday up to Easter Sunday.

The Lt. Crispin Tagamolila Command, which oversees all NPA operations in Northern Luzon, challenged Brigadier Generals Ernesto Calupig and Edgardo Batenga to "order the cessation of hostilities during the (Lenten season) and still their guns in penitence... if (they) are serious about peace and care for the welfare of their soldiers in the field who are doing the dying."

Calupig and Batenga are the top officers of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Northern Luzon Command.

Libertad claimed the NPA has "always given peace a chance... but it is the Nolcom [Northern Luzon command] and Jusmag (Joint US Military Advisory Group) forces who are bent in [as published] sabotaging the peace process."

In the same press statement, Libertad admitted that it was the NPA which destroyed the five AFP helicopters in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, on March 31.

Libertad said the NPA Roger Baccud Partisan Commandos attacked at about 1:03 a.m. the Task Force North Luzon-Jusmag command post and the PNP Recom 2 headquarters at Camp Marcelo Adurru in Barangay Alimano.

Libertad said the NPA force destroyed three Huey helicopters using explosive packs.

The same group, using rifle grenade launchers, damaged another Huey and an S-76 Blackhawk.

"With stealth and able mass support, the commandos were able to extricate [as published] from their mission without any casualty or hindrance from pursuing AFP troops," Libertad said.

He said the raid was the NPA response to the AFP bombing and burning of Barangay Mabiga and Dagunit in Conner, Kalinga Apayao.

He said the raid belied AFP claims of victory in Northern Luzon.

Libertad also said 12 Scout Rangers from the 77th Infantry Battalion were killed when two Kennedy-type jeeps struck land mines in Barangay Gumarueng, Piat, Cagayan.

Thailand

Groups Form Alliance To Resist Trade Accusations

*BK0104035392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
1 Apr 92 p 26*

[Text] Thai environmental groups and industrialists, not normally the best of friends, have formed an unusual alliance to resist the latest US accusation of unfair trading practice in Thailand.

The move is in response to a decision by the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) to launch an investigation into allegations that Thailand enjoys an unfair advantage because of its monsoon climate.

The American Paddy and Rice Industry League (APRIL), a leading lobbying group, has complained to the USTR that Thailand is exploiting its climate to hold on to the number one slot in world rice export markets.

The last straw was the 1988 logging ban in Thailand, APRIL president Chuck Harvester IV said in his petition. This would further reduce the opportunity for the United States to gain its rightful place as the world's top rice exporter, he argued.

"What we are seeking is not unreasonable," Mr Harvester, a California farmer, told Business Post in a telephone interview.

"Fair trade has to be conducted on a level playing field, but in this case the field is tilted in Thailand's favour. All we are seeking is to ensure that Thai rice farmers cease stealing an unfair share of the world's water. Besides we are operating legitimately within the bounds of our law."

News of the USTR's decision was leaked earlier this week. A formal announcement is expected later today.

Under a provision of US trade law known as Section 401 (more properly Section IV/01) US Trade Representative Carla Hills, or her successor after this year's elections, has to announce a ruling within 12 months, on April 1 next year at the latest.

The law says the USTR has to impose trade sanctions against any government that is deemed to have intervened to influence climatic conditions instead of letting market forces take their natural course.

"What the Thai government has done is a blatant defiance of the economic laws of nature," Mr Harvester said in his petition.

Over the coming year, Thailand will have an opportunity to argue its case, but American sources say the USTR is only likely to be lenient if Bangkok can prove that logging has resumed.

This is the point that has united the Thai non-governmental organisations and the industrial bodies threatened with sanctions—exporters of textiles products, jewellery and para wood furniture. All of them said yesterday they can prove that APRIL's accusation are totally unfounded.

"The idea that logging stops just because the government issues a decree is absurd," said Thanya Kasikam, president of the Project for Unilateral Revival of the Environment.

Added Morakot Noppakao, a leading jeweller: "The same goes for the gemstone industry. How many trees are there at Bo Phloi in Kanchanaburi?"

Toh Khruangruan, representing Southern para-wood furniture makers, warned: "If the Americans raise barriers against our exporters, there will be no incentive to grow rubber trees. We will be forced to leave the forests alone."

A Commerce Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Thailand would not yield to American pressure, but would abide by whatever is agreed multilaterally at the Earth Summit in Brazil in June.

Thailand normally exports about four million tons of rice annually about double the US figure.

Representatives of the three industries considered under the greatest threat agreed, and they argued that their sectors were all contributing to further deforestation.

"We are now buying more and more cotton domestically," said Aphon Chongkraben, an executive of the Clothing and Apparel Producers' Society. "How do the Americans think the cotton farmers of Nakhon Sawan have managed to increase their output if not by expanding their acreage? And where do the Americans think the farmers obtained their new land?"

UNHCR Gives Aid for Cambodian Refugees

*BK0804103892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in English 0000 GMT 8 Apr 92*

[Text] Thailand and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, signed a 140 million baht aid package yesterday to assist refugees' shelters in Thailand. The agreement was signed by Deputy Permanent Secretary for Interior Chaiwat Hutacharoen and UNHCR Representative in Thailand Daniel E. Convey. The agreement is on a yearly basis. Of the 140 million baht, 40 million baht is earmarked to charitable organizations for health care and administrative expenses. Another 40 million baht will be spent on food for refugees in the camps. There are currently about 70,000 refugees straddled at five camps, at Chiang Kham District in Phayao, Ban Winai in Loei, Ban Napho in

Nakhon Phanom, Phanat Nikhom in Chonburi, and Si Kheu in Nakhon Ratchasima.

Aviation Agreement Reached With South Africa

*BK0404100892 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia
in English 1500 GMT 2 Apr 92*

[Text] South Africa and Thailand have drafted an aviation agreement which will pave the way for the first-ever air service between the two countries. Deputy Permanent Secretary for Transport and Communications Rungrot Siprasoetsuk said South African Airways would start flying from South Africa's capital Johannesburg to Bangkok in June this year. Thai Airways International, or THAI, also would begin a Bangkok-Johannesburg flight later in the year.

Mr. Rungrot said Aviation Department Director General Sisuk Chantharangsue headed the Thai delegation to negotiate the aviation agreement in Johannesburg. A formal agreement was expected last night.

The air service agreement was made possible following the lifting of UN sanctions imposed against South Africa because of its apartheid policy.

Crown Prince Departs for Official Visit to India

*BK0704120492 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai
1030 GMT 7 Apr 92*

[Excerpt] At 1400 today, Crown Prince Somdet Phra Barom Orasathirat Maha Wachiralongkon departed the Air Force Headquarters Airport on a special plane for New Delhi to begin an official visit from 7 to 21 April to the Indian Republic at the invitation of the Indian Government. [passage omitted]

Coalition Parties Discuss Ministries

*BK1004004792 Bangkok THE NATION in English
10 Apr 92 pp A1-A2*

[Text] The five coalition parties have agreed to let Prime Minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun pick his people for the top posts at the Interior, Defence and Finance ministries but have not decided on his request for a non-elected professional to control the Commerce Ministry, a party spokesman said yesterday.

Meanwhile, informed sources told THE NATION that Samakkhi Tham was trying to swap the University Affairs Ministry for the Public Health Ministry, which on Wednesday was allotted to the Social Action Party.

Samakkhi Tham failed to barter the Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives Ministry for the Communications and Transport Ministry with Chat Thai when the five alliance leaders negotiated the quota for portfolios on Wednesday night.

Suchinda had earlier said that he wanted "professionals" to run the key economic portfolios, but did not elaborate.

Yesterday he said the list of the Cabinet members is expected to be announced on Friday or Saturday.

He said there were no problems among the five-party coalition members over the sharing of the Cabinet portfolios and they have reached agreement on almost every one.

Sources said Suchinda may concurrently head the Defence Ministry while Assistant Army Commander in Chief Gen Chatchom Gunlong would be nominated deputy defence minister.

Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet yesterday said Suchinda had asked for a quota for nine Cabinet posts, but the premier acknowledged that he would appoint only seven ministers. The sharing of some 40 other portfolios is being discussed among the coalition members themselves, said Samak.

The coalition partners will name their men for specific ministerial posts and Suchinda will have the final say on their appointments, he said.

Chat Thai Party secretary general Banhan Silapa-archa yesterday reiterated that some politicians whose assets were ordered seized by the military—appointed assets investigation committee will certainly join the new Cabinet.

"You see, Suchinda has clearly spoken about that," said Banhan. Suchinda said after he received the royal order appointing him prime minister on Tuesday that the court has yet to rule on whether the politicians were really corrupt even though their assets were ordered seized by the investigation panel.

The Commerce Ministry is under the quota of the Social Action Party, according to a tentative agreement among the leaders of the five parties on Wednesday night.

"We are still discussing the matter. My personal opinion is that we can allow a neutral figure to run the Commerce Ministry," said Suchat Tancharoen, the spokesman of the largest coalition partner, the Samakkhi Tham Party.

But Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan said he did not expect Suchinda to ask for non-elected outsiders to run economic ministries.

"He has not let us know what posts he wants for the non-elected outsiders. But to my knowledge, he would not ask for control over economic ministries. However I think the security ministries (defence and interior) and the Foreign Ministry should go to outsiders," he said.

Suchat made the public comment as the division of Cabinet portfolios among the parties and the premier's people became clearer yesterday following a meeting of the five leaders on Wednesday night. Sources who participated in the negotiations said that they tentatively agreed to control the 13 ministries as follows:

Suchinda (7-9 posts): a deputy prime minister, defence, interior and finance ministers.

Samakkhi Tham (16 posts): a deputy prime minister, agriculture and agricultural cooperatives, industry, science, technology and energy, and university affairs.

Chat Thai (15 posts): a deputy prime minister, communications and transport, education, foreign and justice.

Social Action (6 posts): a deputy prime minister, commerce and public health.

Prachakon Thai (2 posts): a deputy prime minister and deputy agriculture minister.

Ratsadon (one post): deputy education minister.

But Samakkhi Tham Party sources said the party was unhappy with the share it was allocated.

The party is now seeking to swap the university affairs minister for the public health minister.

The five leaders reportedly resumed their talks last night to try to finalize the division of the portfolios among themselves.

Samakkhi Tham sources said that the party had already worked out a list of its 16 nominees: party leader Narong Wongwan, secretary general Thiti Nakhonthap, advisory chairman Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, deputy leader Somphong Amonwiwat, deputy leader Chatchawan Chomphudaeng, deputy leader Phinit Chantrasurin, deputy leader Charun Ngamphichet, veteran politician Anuwat Wattanaphongsiri, former deputy House speaker Mai Sirinawakun, former deputy interior minister Santi Chaiwiratana, former deputy communications minister Suwat Liptaphanlop, Wirakon Khamprakop, Kiate Srisurin, Chawalit Osathanugraph, Ruangvit Lik, and Suchat Tancharoen.

However, the party would nominate Suchat as government spokesman if the premier does not insist on appointing an outsider to the post.

The party leadership offered Athit the post of deputy prime minister but he may refuse to accept a Cabinet post because the prime minister used to serve under him in the military hierarchy.

Athit and former industry minister Pramuan Saphawasu, who defected from Chat Thai to Samakkhi Tham along with Anuwat, yesterday called on Narong at the party leader's residence, apparently to discuss the party's nominees.

Pramuan, who is one of the five politicians in the coalition who were ruled unusually rich by the Assets Examination Committee, said they discussed ways to form "the best possible Cabinet" with the party leader.

He said he would not accept any Cabinet post because "I have swallowed enough bitterness after having served as minister for many terms".

For the key Cabinet posts, the party tentatively agreed on:

—Narong as agriculture and agricultural cooperatives minister;

—Somphong as industry minister;

—Thiti as PM's Office minister in charge of the Budget Bureau;

—Anuwat as science, technology and energy minister; and,

—Phinit as public health minister.

The sources said that the party was negotiating for the control of the public health portfolio in exchange for SAP's takeover of the University Affairs Ministry because Phinit is more qualified for the former.

On the party of Chat Thai, its leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong is tipped to become communications minister while secretary general Banhan Sinlapa-acha is likely to take over as education minister.

Phongpon Adireksan, son of party's advisory chairman Pol Gen Praman Adireksan, is tipped to become foreign minister.

It was not known yesterday who Chat Thai would nominate as justice minister.

There were also unconfirmed reports that deputy party leader Sano Thienthong could be nominated as deputy prime minister.

In a related development, former auditor general Thawi Nunphakdi and outgoing finance minister Suthi Singaneh yesterday visited Suchinda at his residence amidst speculation that the premier was trying to lobby for their agreement to take up key Cabinet posts under his quota.

Kaset: Military To Step in if Country 'At Risk'

*BK1004010592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
10 Apr 92 p 1*

[Text] Newly-appointed Supreme Commander Kaset Rotchananin yesterday announced that the military would not meddle in politics unless national security is at stake.

"I have said on various occasions that the military has no desire to get involved in politics. But we get dragged into politics. We will step in if the country is at risk, if there is chaos, if the government is unable to maintain peace in the country, or if the economy is on the brink of collapse," he said.

It is the right of every Thai, soldiers included, to play a role in bringing about national security, he claimed.

"But the military is slightly at an advantageous position because the military is unified as one and we have the courage to face problems," he said adding the military could not afford to let the country go astray.

"It is the duty of the military to step in to protect the nation, the religion and the monarchy," said ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset.

The supreme commander, who is also air force commander-in-chief, said he could not promise there will not be a coup in the future.

"I cannot confirm that, because it will depend on whether the government can administer the country in peace and stability, or whether the people will live a good life. If everything is all right, the military will not stage a coup unless (someone) causes the military to stage the coup," he said.

Asked how long the new government is expected to be in office, ACM Kaset said he had personal faith in Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun because the latter has earned the support of all parties.

The supreme commander announced that he would carry on the policy laid down by his predecessor, Gen Suchinda, to bring about security, loyalty and unity in the military and police forces, and to maintain peace and order in the country.

He went on to say that he did not expect any problem from his new responsibility to oversee the three armed forces, "because the military has discipline and unity."

Party Vows To Amend Pro-Military Constitution

*BK1004013192 Bangkok THE NATION in English
10 Apr 92 p A2*

[Text] The Phalang Tham Party [PDP] vowed yesterday to push for a constitutional amendment to bar non-elected people from taking the premiership in the future.

"We will fight against all odds, using whatever legal means, to achieve our goal," said Phalang Tham's Secretary-General Col Chinawut Sunthonsima.

The PDP, which scored an unexpected sweeping victory in Bangkok in the general election last month, said it had not yet discussed the issue with its three allies—the new Aspiration, Democrat and Solidarity parties.

The alliance has vowed to change the Constitution to eliminate its pro-military clauses. But observers say the bloc's chances of success appear slimmer with the appointment of military strongman Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister.

A constitutional amendment can be made with simple majority support in the Senate and House of Representatives.

The New Aspiration, Phalang Tham, Democrat and Solidarity parties command 163 MPs in the opposition bloc, more than 150 short of the minimal support needed to effect a constitutional change.

The anti-military alliance is also opposed to constitutional clauses practically making the non-elected Senate a channel through which the military can legitimately wield political influence. The Senate, now dominated by active or retired military men, can join the House of Representatives in casting non-confidence votes against

the government and in deliberating royal decrees, whose rejection could force an administration to resign.

Parliament President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin, meanwhile, said yesterday the opposition could launch a no-confidence move against Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun's government only after the new administration declares its policy to Parliament.

"Constitutionally, if the opposition wants to submit a no-confidence motion against the government, it will have to wait at least a day after the government has declared its policy," said Ukrit, who is also Senate speaker.

Opposition leaders said on Wednesday they would censure the government at the first working session of Parliament during which Suchinda will announce his administration's policy statement.

The opposition has branded Suchinda a liar, citing his previous pledges not to take the premiership, and highlighted the hypocrisy of "unusually rich" politicians toppled by Suchinda in last year's coup possibly being included in the new Cabinet.

Suchinda seems to have softened his stand that politicians ruled by military-installed investigators to have acquired their fortunes through dishonest means would be excluded from his Cabinet. Many of the politicians are leaders of the parties in the coalition government that Suchinda now heads.

Opposition parties reaffirmed their solidarity on Wednesday and pledged a vigorous campaign "both inside and outside Parliament" against the prime minister who did not take part in the March general election.

The opposition said it was a shame for Suchinda to rely on support of politicians he toppled last year and accused of being "unprecedentedly corrupt".

But new Aspiration Party leader Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who leads the biggest opposition camp with 72 MPs, has acknowledged that bringing down Suchinda, who is supported by the powerful Senate, would be an uphill task for the opposition. However he predicted the government would "self-destruct".

Students Urge Censure Motion Against Suchinda

*BK1004013992 Bangkok THE NATION in English
10 Apr 92 p A2*

[Text] The Student Federation of Thailand (SFT) yesterday urged MPs belonging to the Samakkhi Tham Party-led five-party coalition to withhold their support for Gen Suchinda Khraprayun who it said had assumed the prime ministership through undemocratic means.

SFT Secretary General Prinya Thewanaruemitkun also called on the other four-party grouping in the House of

Representatives—the New Aspiration, Democrat, Phalang Tham, and Solidarity parties—to lodge a censure motion against the Suchinda Administration as soon as it takes power.

“Gen Suchinda took over the post of prime minister by manipulating political parties in order to maintain the military’s dominant role in politics,” Prinya said.

The student leader said the move weakened political parties and undermined the country’s democratization process.

About 30 students demonstrated at the Democracy Monument on Ratchadamnoen Road, carrying banners that read: “A Coup Plotter for Prime Minister is Total Dictatorship.”

At Parliament, former Bangkok MP Chalot Worachit (Dem) continued a hunger strike for the second day yesterday to protest Suchinda’s ascent to the prime ministership.

Chalot said he was opposed to a prime minister who was not an elected member of Parliament and would continue to fast so long as Suchinda remained in power.

Senate President Ukrit Mongkonnawin and House Speaker Athit Urairat yesterday tried unsuccessfully to persuade Chalot to abandon his hunger strike.

Paper Sees Hypocrisy in Suchinda ‘Sacrifice’

*BK0904025192 Bangkok THE NATION in English
9 Apr 92 p A6*

[Editorial: “A Standard of Hypocrisy That Is Hard To Surpass”]

[Text] Gen Suchinda Khraprayun sets a new standard of hypocrisy by repeatedly contending that his acceptance of the premiership represents a “personal sacrifice” to save Thailand from political chaos. His resignation from the posts of army chief and supreme commander may be a “sacrifice” on his part, but ascending to the premiership is definitely not.

Suchinda actually did not need to leave the top military posts before his retirement in September 1993. Yet he chose to step down in order to let his deputy and brother-in-law, Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, rise to lead the army. The high-visibility role of Gen Itsaraphong on Tuesday, when Suchinda was formally appointed premier, was a clear indication that he is the man in charge.

The ceremonial post of supreme commander will go to ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, who will hold it concurrently with his present post of air force chief. ACM Kaset, like Gen Itsaraphong, is one of the top brass in the National Peacekeeping Council. He and Gen Itsaraphong actively assisted Gen Suchinda in staging the coup on Feb 23, 1991, to topple the Chatchai administration and save Gen Suchinda and Gen Sunthorn Khongsomphong, the then supreme commander,

from demotion in the wake of their running dispute with premier Chatchai Chunhawan.

ACM Kaset is also known to have close connections with Samakkhi Tham (79 House seats) and Chat Thai (74 seats), the two largest parties in the five-party coalition backing Suchinda. As supreme commander ACM Kaset’s prestige will be enhanced, helping him consolidate power in the Air Force. Moreover, Suchinda plans to co-opt deputy air force chief ACM Anan Kalintha, a contender for the top air force post, as the interior minister; in effect this will ease pressure on ACM Kaset to step down before he is willing to.

Suchinda certainly did ACM Kaset and Gen Itsaraphong big favours. At the same time he also put his political future in the hands of these two commanders. This must be the “personal sacrifice” Suchinda was talking about. Taking the brunt of public criticism and ridicule for retracting on his pledge given last November not to accept the premiership could hardly be called a “sacrifice”, as this wasn’t the first time he has gone back on his word. It may not be the last either.

Before the coup in 1991 Suchinda had sneered at the idea of staging a coup to end the dispute with the Chatchai administration.

After the coup he vowed to punish corrupt politicians for “plundering the Thai nation”. He also asserted that he and the NPKC [National Peace-Keeping Council] “had no intention” to hold on to government power when they were pushing for the undemocratic draft constitution. And after the Constitution went into effect and the election date was set for March 22, he claimed that he and his fellow officers would “return to the barracks” after the election.

The record clearly shows that Suchinda’s word is worthless. He obviously had nothing left to lose when he reneged on the pledge and accepted the premiership.

It is still unclear why Suchinda claimed his acceptance of the premiership would avert political chaos and save the country from economic confusion. He was certainly not the only choice the five-party coalition could go for after its first nominee, Samakkhi Tham party leader Narong Wongwan, was rejected by the NPKC. Even if the coalition took a few more days to come up with a new nominee, the country could wait because caretaker Premier Anan Panyarachun would still be around to look after the government.

What exactly was threatening the country then? This is the question Suchinda must answer quickly and clearly.

Prachakon Thai party leader Samak Suntharawat, a deputy prime minister designate, claimed there were certain “movements” inside and outside the country trying to discredit every political leader in the pro-Suchinda coalition. But who? How? And for what possible reason? Perhaps Samak was referring to the Thai and foreign press pestering Narong about US suspicions

that he was involved in international drug trafficking. If the other coalition leaders were too scared to face scrutiny by the press and so had to invite Suchinda to their rescue, then they have only themselves to blame.

Suchinda apparently is not afraid because he has the Army backing him—at least for the time being.

At least we should consider ourselves lucky that Suchinda hasn't claimed to be trying to promote parliamentary democracy with his acceptance of the premiership. He has already rejected the idea of him standing in a by-election because he doesn't want to lower himself to "play politics" at the pedestrian level where all the elected politicians belong.

But should he someday start claiming that he is holding onto the PM's seat in the interest of parliamentary democracy, then he will have surpassed the standard of hypocrisy he has just set this week.

Paper Criticizes TV Coverage of NPKC Rallies

*BK1004011392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
10 Apr 92 p 4*

[Editorial: "TV News Blackout a Self-Defeating Move"]

[Text] Of the various branches of the mass media, it is common knowledge that newspapers and the print media in general enjoy the most freedom while television and radio are subject to varying degrees of state control and censorship. This longstanding pattern is rooted in the fact that while the print media is privately owned and run, TV and radio stations are owned by the state and either directly run by state agencies or franchised to private operators. The relative freedom of the print media has made it possible for a consistent developmental process which places the Thai press today at the forefront of all its counterparts in Southeast Asia. At home, it has grown to become a progressive and dynamic force which serves to enhance the pluralistic check-and-balance mechanisms in Thai society.

Against this apparent lopsidedness, TV in particular was given a shot in the arm during the later stages of the Anan Panyarachun administration. Under a liberal policy which permitted political parties to make full use of television time for campaigning, TV became a powerful medium airing the diverse opinions of political party leaders contesting the March 22 general election. Diverse political talk shows organised by selected local newspaper groups in conjunction with TV stations and special election-related programmes held by the stations themselves subsequently succeeded in stimulating a great deal of political awareness and interest among the electorate. This partly explains why the voter turnout in Bangkok rose this time around compared to the traditional low levels seen in the past.

But unfortunately, any public expectations of more objective TV news coverage have rapidly turned sour. Since the election, all four national commercial stations

have reportedly been operating under an unspoken code of minimising any coverage critical of the National Peace-keeping Council or the ways in which it was orchestrating political developments. The situation apparently took a turn for the worse following the appointment of former military chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as the country's new prime minister, as there was a virtual news blackout on dissenting voices from various quarters. Of the four stations, two are said to have received verbal instructions to present only coverage that is supportive of Gen Suchinda's appointment while the news editors at the two other stations are reported to have exercised "self censorship" to the same effect, apparently fearing adverse repercussions if they were to present the negative side of the story.

On the surface, whichever element of the powers-that-be that ordered the de facto news blackout must have done so out of a sense of insecurity. If Gen Suchinda himself or his supporters are genuinely confident that he is the right choice for the country's top political post, they should have no basis to fear dissenting voices or criticism. After all, criticism based on logic and reasoning, and the ensuing process of dialogue, are part and parcel of any healthy democracy. The truth of the matter could well be a different thought. Not only has Gen Suchinda been criticised for reneging on his own pledges (not to assume the premiership), his acceptance of the premiership is also seen as the final act of a calculated series of political orchestrations since the February 1991 coup d'etat to further his own ambition and perpetuate the interests of his Class 5 clique. This is notwithstanding his subsequent claims that he had to swallow his pride "for the sake of the country".

More seriously, the de facto TV news blackout constitutes a grave insult to the intelligence and the "right to know" of the Thai public. Thai viewers today have become much more sophisticated along with the country's economic and social development. It is their right to be presented with a balanced coverage of both the positive and negative sides of an issue of national significance such as the new premiership from which they can formulate their own judgement. Censoring the story by presenting the rosy picture while suppressing the negative side only serves to fuel further resentment and frustrations which can prove detrimental in the end. This is a deplorable start to the tenure of someone who had promised to turn the country back on a democratic course. The news blackout must end; the right to free and balanced information must be returned to the people.

Vietnam

Official Views Appointment of New Thai Premier

*BK0904023592 Bangkok THE NATION in English
9 Apr 92 p A2*

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon in Hanoi]

[Text] The appointment of Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister will not affect Thai-Vietnamese relations, Vietnam said yesterday.

A senior Foreign Ministry official, who asked not to be named, said he did not expect any change in Thai policy towards Vietnam.

The official, who used to be stationed in Thailand, said the former government of Anan Panyarachun had set up a good framework to strengthen bilateral ties.

Meanwhile, a long editorial in the official Vietnamese army newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN said Suchinda's appointment showed the complexity of Thai political developments.

"The nomination of Suchinda, supreme commander and army commander in chief, to the most powerful administrative position of Thailand, shows that current political developments in Thailand are rather complicated," the editorial said.

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN was the only Vietnamese paper to comment on Suchinda's appointment.

The editorial said it should be noted that before Sammakhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan was nominated as premier, Suchinda had rejected his own proposed nomination as premier by National Peacekeeping Council chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong who wanted him to fill the post.

"Facts have clearly shown that no democrat in Thailand (it will be even harder for any democrat who is not on a good terms with the army) now can run this country" the editorial continued.

"Apart from these, if Narong had been appointed premier, the US-Thai relations, which have so many problems arising from the February coup, could become even more complicated and that could cause a backlash on the Thai economy. The Thai exporters would be living in fear that their trading activities would be retaliated by the US and that stock market would be upset."

The paper said Suchinda has a huge task to accomplish. Therefore at present he has to consolidate his power, stabilize political developments at home and to patch up the tense relationship between Thailand and US."

Ministers Sign Cooperation Accords With Finland

On Water, Energy Projects

BK0904064392 Hanoi VNA in English 0637 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 9—A memorandum of understanding on development cooperation between Vietnam and Finland was signed here on April 8.

Signatories were Nguyen Van Hung, member of the State Commission for Sciences, and Pinti Majanen, head of the department for Asia and Latin America of the

Finnish International Development Agency (FINIDA), who led a FINIDA delegation on a week-long visit to Vietnam ended today.

While here the delegation had working sessions with officials of the State Commission for Sciences, the ministries of energy, forestry, and public health, and other concerned offices.

The two sides reviewed the implementation of projects funded by Finland and discussed new projects in the framework of the program on development cooperation between Vietnam and Finland for the period 1993-1996, mainly in the fields of water supply, energy, and forestry.

Modalities Agreed Upon

BK0904142192 Hanoi VNA in English 1259 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 9— An agreement on general terms and modalities for cooperation between Vietnam and Finland was signed here on April 8.

Signatories were Le Huu Duyen, vice-minister of trade and tourism, and Kai Granholm, Finnish Ambassador to Vietnam.

The agreement, which covers more fields of cooperation than the similar one signed in 1977 between the two countries, stipulates conditions and general modalities for the development cooperation in the new stage.

Lao Friendship Delegation Visits

BK0704161692 Hanoi VNA in English 1407 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 7—A delegation of the Lao Committee for Peace, Friendship and Solidarity headed by President Singapore Chounmamali visited Vietnam from March 31 to April 7 at the invitation of the Vietnam Peace Committee.

The Lao delegation was received on separate occasions by Mr. Nong Duc Manh, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and president of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association and Mr. Hong Ha, secretary and head of the External Relations Commission of the party Central Committee.

The Lao guests had working sessions with Mr. Phan Hien, president of the Vietnam Peace Committee and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry as well as other concerned offices.

Besides Hanoi, the delegation toured the northern province of Quang Ninh.

Chinese Ambassador Honors War Dead

BK0704152692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] On 3 April 1992, in the framework of the commemoration of All-Souls Day, Ambassador Zhang

Dewei, his wife, and a group of cadres and personnel of the Chinese Embassy in our country paid a floral visit to a number of Chinese war dead cemeteries in Huu Lung and Chi Lang Districts, Lang Son Province.

On the afternoon of 3 April 1992, Comrade Nguyen Minh Phat, chairman of the provincial people's committee, cordially received Ambassador Zhang Dewei. On the morning of 4 April 1992, the Chinese ambassador and his entourage crossed the Vietnamese friendship border gate to visit cadres and soldiers of a border defense outpost in Guangxi, China.

Singaporean Construction Delegation Visits

*BK0604150192 Hanoi VNA in English 1346 GMT
6 Apr 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 6—A 16-member construction delegation of Singapore arrived here yesterday to inquire into possibilities of bilateral cooperation in construction.

Today, the delegation, led by Mr. Teo Toong Hau, director of a Singaporean estate company, was received by Vietnamese Minister of Construction Ngo Xuan Loc. It had working sessions with concerned offices in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and some southern provinces.

9 Apr National Assembly Session Reported

*BK0904133992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Apr 92*

[Report on 9 April National Assembly session in Hanoi—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear friends: Today, 9 April, the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session continued its plenary meeting at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu to discuss and adopt a number of articles in Chapters 6 and 7 of the draft revised Constitution.

This morning, after hearing comrade Vu Mao, on behalf of the Constitution Amendment Committee, present the amendments with the addition of Article 90A on the duty of the National Assembly chairman, the deputies contributed their ideas to perfecting this article and then passed with a majority of votes to add Article 90A on the duty and authority of the National Assembly chairman.

After debating heatedly Article 92, the National Assembly voted with a majority agreeing to the establishment of two organizations: the National Defense and Security Council and the National Defense and Security Committee of the National Assembly. The chief of state will be the chairman of the National Defense and Security Council elected by the National Assembly.

In the afternoon, the National Assembly deputies continued to hold a debate in the conference hall. After Comrade Vu Mao, on behalf of the amendment committee, presented the amendments and read the whole text of articles from 93 to 99 of Chapter 6, the deputies continued the discussion and

contributed many different ideas to further perfecting the contents as well as the words, phrases, and predicates. For example, Article 93 says: The chairman of the Nationalities Council has the right to attend the meetings of the State Council and government. After discussing this article, the National Assembly voted and passed it with the following amendment: The Nationalities Council may be invited to attend the meetings of the State Council and government.

Also concerning this article, some other deputies questioned why the Nationalities Council is not called a committee just like other committees of the National Assembly. After weighing the question, the National Assembly saw that it should be necessarily called the Nationalities Council and not committee so that it conforms to the nature and scope of this council.

After discussing Article 94, some deputies suggested that the article should not say the National Assembly committees are to report their ideas to the National Assembly's standing committee concerning the issues of organization and personnel. After weighing the suggestion, the National Assembly realized that the article should be maintained intact as amended because the National Assembly's standing committee also has the function of deciding the issues of organization and personnel under its jurisdiction like the conferment of rank insignia on high-ranking officers, the awarding of orders, and so forth.

Concerning Article 96, the National Assembly unanimously agreed that the National Assembly deputies represent not only the people in their electorates but also the people countrywide.

Shifting to Chapter 7 on the chief of state, after hearing Comrade Vu Mao present the amendments, the deputies continued to discuss and contribute many ideas to better perfecting it.

Regarding Article 102 on the duty and authority of the chief of state, many deputies discussed and suggested the addition or reduction of some words and sentences for perfection. The National Assembly voted with a majority on the issue of the National Defense and Security Council whose members are recommended by the chief of state and approved by the National Assembly. The deputies then suggested that Article 102 be rewritten for perfection and be voted on later.

Dear friends: In the spirit of laborious, careful, and responsible work for one day in the conference hall, the deputies listened and continually debated all the suggestions in order to better clarify the articles in Chapters 6 and 7. In the end, they voted and passed Articles 90a to 99 of Chapter 6 and Articles 100, 101 and 102 of Chapter 7.

Tomorrow, 10 April, the deputies will continue their work in the conference hall.

Communique No. 14

*BK0904145292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 9 Apr 92*

[Communique No. 14 of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session]

[Text] On 9 April, the National Assembly held a plenary session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi. Comrade Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly directed the session.

The National Assembly continued its discussion and adopted Articles 62-99 of Chapter 6 of the revised Constitution which deals with the National Assembly, and articles 100-102 of Chapter 7 which deals with the chief of state.

The National Assembly will continue its plenary session tomorrow, 10 April, at the conference hall.

National Assembly 10 Apr Session Reported

*BK1004134492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Apr 92*

[Report on 10 April sitting of Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear friends: Today, 10 April, the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session entered the 16th day with a plenary sitting in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall to continually debate and pass the contents of amendments to the Constitution under the direction of its Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu.

In the morning, after hearing Vu Mao, on behalf of the Constitutional Amendment Committee, present the contents of amended articles following the deputies' contributions in previous debates, the deputies gave some more ideas on the contents of each article.

Article 102 of Chapter 7 on the duty and authority of the chief of state was discussed at yesterday afternoon's sitting. The deputies added some more ideas and unanimously agreed not to vote on this article yet to allow the amendment committee to further amend it for perfection. Then, the deputies voted to pass Articles 103 to 106 of Chapter 7.

Chapter 8 on government was debated and many deputies suggested changes of position and addition or reduction of some phrases and sentences for more conciseness. The National Assembly then voted with a majority agreeing to Articles 107, 108 and 109. Article 110 has not been voted nor passed because some deputies still disagreed on a number of details.

The National Assembly ended its morning sitting with the passage of Article 115, the last one of Chapter 8.

In the afternoon sitting, after hearing Comrade Vu Mao present the contents of amended articles that have been

compiled, the deputies continued to vote on articles in Chapter 9 on the people's councils and the people's committees.

Regarding the heading of the chapter, some suggested the People's Councils and the People's Committees while others proposed the People's Councils and the Administrative Committees. Finally, the National Assembly voted with a majority agreeing to the heading as shown in the draft: The People's Councils and the People's Committees.

After suggesting the addition or reduction of some phrases and further clarifying some details and points, the National Assembly voted to continually pass Articles 116, 117 and 118. As regards Article 119, some deputies held that since the authority of the people's councils to issue decisions has been stipulated in Article 118, Article 119 was not needed. The National Assembly agreed with a majority of votes to rescind this article that will be specified by law.

Many deputies held that stipulations in Articles 120 and 121 concerning the elections of standing and other committees of the people's councils should be included rather in the law on organization than in the Constitution. The National Assembly passed this suggestion with a majority of votes.

Concerning Article 124, many deputies suggested that amendments should be more concise than detailed and that the two paragraphs on the system and responsibility of the people's committees be canceled.

Some deputies proposed the exclusion from the Constitution of Article 125 on the election of the people's committees because the stipulations in this article will be specified in the law on electing the people's councils. The National Assembly voted with a majority agreeing to Articles 124 and 125.

The deputies then debated Articles 126 and 127 of Chapter 9, added and reduced some sentences and words, and passed them with a majority of votes.

Comrade Pham Hung, chief judge of the People's Supreme Court, presented the contents of amended articles in Chapter 10 on the people's court and the people's organ of control. Then, the deputies debated each article to finally agree with a majority of votes to the change of headings of chapters and Articles 128 to 138 on the people's court as written in the draft revised Constitution.

Tomorrow, the National Assembly will continue to work in the conference hall.

Communique No. 15

*BK1004154692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Apr 92*

[Communique No. 15 of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session]

[Text] On 10 April 1992, the National Assembly held a plenary sitting in the conference hall under the direction of its Vice-Chairman Phung Van Tuu.

The National Assembly continued to discuss, vote on, and pass Articles 103 to 106 of Chapter 7 on the chief of state, Articles 107 to 115 of Chapter 8 on government, Articles 116 to 127 of Chapter 9 on the people's councils and the people's committees, Articles 128 to 138 of Chapter 10 on the people's court and the people's organ of control of a draft revised Constitution.

On 11 April 1992, the National Assembly will continue its plenary meeting in the conference hall.

Kiet Speaks at North-South Powerline Ceremony

*BK0904145592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 5 Apr 92*

[Report on 5 April groundbreaking ceremony in Hoa Binh Province to start the construction of the north-south 500-kv high voltage powerline—portions recorded]

[Summary] Dear friends, today, 5 April, ceremonies will be held simultaneously in Hoa Binh, Danang, Ban Me Thuot, and Cu Chi District in Ho Chi Minh City to begin the construction of the north-south 500-kv high voltage powerline to be completed at the end of 1993.

In Hoa Binh Province, the starting point of the powerline, a groundbreaking ceremony was held in the morning of 5 April at Thanh Hoi village, Tan Lac District.

"Attending the ceremony as presidium members were Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Tran Duc Luong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Vu Ngoc Hai, minister of energy; Nguyen Van Cau, chairman of the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers; Vu Xuan Hong, secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; Nguyen Nhu Coc, secretary of Hoa Binh party committee; Bach Cong Dieu, chairman of Hoa Binh people's committee; Do Huu Thang, deputy head of the powerline project; Nguyen Van Tam, director of Construction Corporation No. 1; and Bui Quang Canh, chairman of Tan Lac district people's committee. Also attending the ceremony were leading comrades from ministries, sectors, branches, mass organization at the central level; leaders from Thanh Hoa and Nghe An Provinces, and Hanoi Municipality; and a large group of newsmen in the province and from the central level."

After an opening speech delivered by a representative of the Ministry of Energy, Comrade Do Huu Thang, deputy head of the north-south 500-kv powerline project, made a brief report on the project, saying the powerline runs over a distance of 1,462 km from the Hoa Binh Hydroelectric Power Plant in the north to the suburbs of Ho Chi Minh City. The project, when completed, will provide an electric power of 3-4 billion kw-hour per year to various localities. In the 1994-96 period, the project will

provide the central highlands with one billion kw-hour, and the south with about two billion kw-hour per year.

Afterward, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet delivered a speech. He said:

[Begin Vo Van Kiet recording] "We are very elated to gather here today, and together with people throughout the country, to witness an important groundbreaking ceremony to build the north-south 500-kv powerline, a concrete and significant project for developing our national economy and improving our people's daily life. During the past years, our party and state have paid great attention to expanding and improving the electric network. However, the central and southern parts of the country are facing an acute shortage of electricity, thus seriously affecting the socioeconomic development program in these regions. For this reason, in formulating the general plan for developing the national electric network and the policy on national energy, our party and state have asserted the necessity to build the north-south 500-kv powerline and since 1987, economic-technological surveys have been made to carry out this project. The building of the 500-kv powerline is one of the most important measures aimed at resolving the shortage of electricity in the central region, the central highlands, and the southern part in the days ahead. Along with efforts to increase the electric power in localities, the building of this powerline will create an impact for electric power plants and coal mines in the north to optimally exploit their capacity. The rapid increase in electric power will help contribute to promoting our nation's socioeconomic growth and progress in other domains.

"Dear comrades and countrymen, the north-south powerline is an important project of great significance to our socioeconomic development. With the tradition of unanimity and self-reliance; with our open-door foreign policy; with the quality of diligence, intelligence, and creativity of our scientists, technicians, economic cadres, and workers; and with the wholehearted support from people throughout the country including ethnic minorities in Hoa Binh Province, I am convinced that we will overcome all difficulties and fulfill this project for the prosperity of our nation and happiness of our people. In this context, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, I order the beginning of the construction of the north-south 500-kv powerline.

"Thank you, comrades and countrymen, for your attention." [applause] [end recording]

Afterward, Comrade Vu Ngoc Hai, minister of energy, delivered a speech to start construction of the project. He said:

[Begin Vu Ngoc Hai recording] "We pledge with the Council of Ministers chairman and people throughout the country that we will closely coordinate with sectors and localities concerned to strive to achieve high results in implementing this project. First, we pledge that we will complete the project at the end of 1993 so that

operation can start in early 1994. Second, we will enhance the technical quality of the project. Third, we will ensure safety during the construction and operation period. Fourth, we will practice thrift and ensure high economic results of the project. On behalf of the construction committee, I take the Council of Minister chairman's order and hereby assign construction units of the project to start building the north-south 500-kv powerline. I wish all units outstanding achievements from the beginning of their work." [end recording]

Comrade Nguyen Van Tam, director of Construction Corporation No. 1, on behalf of all cadres, workers, and members of the building force for the first section of the project, took the order from Minister Vu Ngoc Hai to start the project.

Dear friends, after the ground-breaking ceremony, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet and leading cadres of sectors and localities viewed the installation of the first electric pole of the project in Tan Lac District.

Books by Vo Chi Cong, Do Muoi Published

BK0804054392 Hanoi VNA in English 0527 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 8—The Su That (Truth) Publishing House has published two books, one by Party General Secretary Do Muoi and the other by State Council President Vo Chi Cong.

The party leader's book, titled *Revising Constitution, Building Legislative State of Vietnam and Stepping up Renovation Process* includes two reports he presented at the second session of the party Central Committee (Seventh Congress) and the 11th session of the national assembly (Eighth Legislature). In these reports, he brought out the party's determination to institutionalise the political platform and the socio-economic strategy adopted at the seventh party congress and improve the state apparatus and the party leadership towards the state in the process of renovation so as to take the country out of difficulties and build it into a prosperous country.

The State Council president's book, themed *Strengthening People's State Power and Pushing Up Process of Renovation* contains reports and speeches he made at the National Assembly, the people's councils and the people's committees at various levels, and on the revision of the 1980 Constitution. "The party's policy for comprehensive renovation," he said, "is aimed at renovating the political system by strengthening the people's state power under the leadership of the party, and gradually reforming the state apparatus from the central to grass-root levels with a view to making it a powerful state of the people, by the people and for the people."

Leaders Honor Memory of Le Duan on Birthday

BK0804064692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] On 7 April in Hanoi, Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the party Central Committee, and Comrades Dao Duy Tung and Le Phuoc Tho, members of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau, visited the family of Comrade Le Duan, where they burned joss-sticks in memory of the late comrade party leader on the occasion of his 85th birthday, 7 April 1907-7 April 1992.

On behalf of our party, state, and people, Comrades Do Muoi, Dao Duy Tung, and Le Phuoc Tho, together with those present, bowed their heads in memory of the talented revolutionary leader—a comrade and outstanding student of Uncle Ho—who had made worthy contributions and sacrificed all his life to the revolutionary cause of our people.

New Interest Rates for Construction Bank Loans

BK0704050592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] The Vietnam State Bank governor recently issued a decision saying that effective 1 April 1992, the interest rates of state fund loans for investment in capital construction, under the annual plan, will be 2.4 percent monthly. The interest rates on loans beyond due dates will be 150 percent of the interest rates on loans returned within the due dates.

The adjustment of interest rates is aimed at implementing the mechanism of credit interest rates according to the requirement of shifting bank operations to business. With the interest rates increased by nearly threefold as compared to the old rates, the number of customers borrowing from the Vietnam Bank of Investment and Development will certainly decrease.

Haiphong Holds War Veterans Congress 26-27 Mar

BK0604144192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent Dao Loc Binh on the first congress of the Haiphong Municipal War Veterans Association held on 26 and 27 March 1992—portions recorded]

[Summary] "Dear comrades and friends: The Haiphong Municipal War Veterans Association held its first congress of delegates on 26 and 27 March."

Attending the congress were 156 delegates representing 15,000 members from 12 districts and towns in Haiphong.

"Also present were Senior Lieutenant General Song Hao, chairman of the Vietnam War Veterans Association Central Committee's Provisional Executive Board; Comrade Le Danh Suong, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the Haiphong Municipal

Party Committee; Lieutenant General Pham Van Tra, member of the party Central Committee and commander of the 3d Military Region;" and other local officials.

The purposes of this congress were to review its activities over the past two years and discuss activities to be carried out in the period ahead.

In his opening speech, Lieutenant General Dang Kinh, chairman of the Haiphong Municipal War Veterans Association, said, among other things, that "Haiphong has a large number of war veterans. However, only 19 percent of the total local war veterans' population have joined the association so far. Over the past two years, the newly-founded association has focused its activities on ensuring that the enforcement of its by-law is linked with the implementation of the political tasks of the locality concerned. Various war veterans associations of Haiphong at the three levels—village or ward, precinct or district, and town or city—had positively engaged in a debate held to contribute views on various documents of the party congress and had expressed the standpoints of their members, which consist of remaining absolutely loyal to the party's revolutionary undertaking and Uncle Ho's cause, persisting in the pursuit of the socialist path, and never subscribing oneself to political pluralism and a multiparty system."

Members of the association have united and helped one another in overcoming numerous difficulties in their everyday life. The association has also developed its role as a party-led mass organization in various sociopolitical activities such as "contributing to maintaining public order and security and reconciling disputes among the residents of various streets and neighborhoods, spreading didactical propaganda among the younger generation on how to maintain and develop the revolutionary heroism of their forefathers, actively fighting corruption, and building the infrastructure in various population centers."

At the opening session, Comrades Le Danh Suong, Song Hao, and Pham Van Tra took turns speaking their views, highly lauding those positive contributions and initial but effective efforts of all the local war veterans associations at various levels.

Here, "we would like to cite the only speech of the comrade secretary of the Haiphong Municipal Party Committee—one who, on behalf of the party, has been providing direct leadership for the municipal war veterans association:"

[Begin Le Danh Suong recording] "Dear comrades: 1992 and the ensuing years are an extremely important stage for our people's revolutionary undertaking. Permitted by the party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers, our municipality will apply an open-door policy under which we will set up various new economic and processing zones. This is a new opportunity for us and will bring us both advantages and difficulties."

We should strive to create and develop our long-term interest to make our people prosperous and our country strong along the socialist path.

"We should practice renovation and a door-opening policy on the basis of taking up and developing the revolutionary tradition of our forefathers and of our preceding generations. While selectively acquiring the quintessences of the world, we are determined not to turn our back on those good things of the past. However, we should resolutely rid ourselves of old thinkings and those conservative patterns of activity and should fight negativism and corruption and minimize all social vices."

The party committee, the people's committee, and the people's council of the municipality hailed those issues raised in the report that Lieutenant General Doan Kinh had presented before this congress. They also expressed hope that all these issues would be substantiated. [end recording]

A dissertation found impressive was the one read by a war invalid named Phan Xuan Yen, director of the Tan Lap wood processing plant run by disabled soldiers and handicapped people. Dealing with the building and development of the association, he said:

[Begin Phan Xuan Yen recording] Dear participants: The number of war invalids retiring in Haiphong is numerous. The founding of the municipal war veterans association is a recourse for them to turn to in time of need. Over the past two years, the association has built itself into a reliable prop for the party and the administration of Haiphong municipality.

"Yet, the association is not large in number. The number of disabled soldiers—including officers and men—living outside the association is still numerous. Therefore, from my perspective, in the period ahead the Haiphong Municipal War Veterans Association should try to increase its membership. To achieve this aim, the association should give sincere and solicitous care, both spiritually and materially, to its members so they can maintain and develop their tradition and character as Uncle Ho's soldiers." [end recording]

Afterward, the congress elected an executive board for the municipal war veterans association, first tenure, which consists of 21 members with Comrade Dang Kinh being reelected as chairman of the municipal war veterans association.

Party Issues Directive on Press, Publications

BK0904132792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 9 Apr 92

[From "Press Review" program]

[Text] NHAN DAN newspaper carries on the front page a directive of the Secretariat of the party Central Committee on the intensification of leadership and management to enhance the quality and efficiency of the press and publication work. The directive states:

Most of the press and publication organs have partly stopped the spreading of government subsidy, started their cost accountancy, moved close to the readership, and improved the presentation and contents. Printing facilities have been strengthened causing rapid technical improvements. However, besides these substantial advantages, the press and publication work still has many weak points and shortcomings, including severe and long-term shortcomings.

To strictly comply with fundamental concepts of the seventh national party congress on the press and publication work, improve quality, and strengthen great social effects of the press and publication activities, the Secretariat requests sectors and levels to implement six instructions outlined in the directive. The Secretariat stresses that in the new situation, the press and publication work is particularly important. Therefore, all party levels, leaders of mass organizations, and officials in charge of relating sectors and organs must base on the content of the directive to review their leading and management work of the press and publication work and issue practical and timely decisions to amend and perfect all activities, strengthen disciplines and order, and improve quality and efficiency of the press and publication activities.

Australia

Cabinet Rejects Security Report on Embassy Attack

*BK1004072192 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 10 Apr 92*

[Text] There is continuing government embarrassment in Australia over the attack by demonstrators earlier this week on the Iranian Embassy in Canberra.

In the latest development, the federal cabinet is to consider ways of improving the response of security agencies. Linda Morton reports that government ministers have expressed dissatisfaction with the failure of officials to properly explain their response to the embassy incident.

[Begin recording] [Morton] Key ministers yesterday ordered officials to go back and try again after their report on Monday's security failure fell well short of expectations. Three days after the event, the government could only conclude that poor and slow information was to blame, as well as the failure to post a security guard at the embassy.

The government is expecting more information today and ministers will prepare a cabinet submission on tighter procedures for future security threats. [end recording]

French Polynesia

Economic Effects of Nuclear Testing Halt Noted

*BK1004050292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0306 GMT
10 Apr 92*

[By Eric Monod]

[Text] Papeete, April 9 (AFP)—France's decision to suspend underground nuclear testing might please environmentalists, but it deals a body blow to the economy of French Polynesia, politicians and observers here say.

On Thursday local newspapers dedicated several pages to Premier Pierre Bregovoy's announcement Wednesday in Paris of a one-year moratorium on nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Greenpeace International had led the international drive against the long-running test program.

Last month it sent its flagship, Rainbow Warrior II, on a high-profile voyage to Mururoa Atoll to test for suspected radiation leakage. French warships intervened, arresting the ship, and the activists were deported.

Since July 1966, France has carried out 127 underground tests at Mururoa and nearby Fangataufa Atoll, as well as 41 atmospheric tests, as it continued to develop its own independent nuclear deterrent arsenal.

The two French Government agencies responsible for the tests—the Commission for Atomic Energy (CEA) and the Center for Propulsion Testing (CEP)—are French Polynesia's leading employers.

CEA and its associated enterprises had 400 local people on its payroll while more than 600 worked for CEP.

The agencies' share of French Polynesia's gross national product (GNP), almost 50 percent a few years ago, has come down to 15-20 percent, said legislator Alexandre Leontieff.

"It remains very important," he said, adding that an end to testing will necessitate "a new policy of partnership" between Paris and its territory half-way round the world.

Leontieff also noted that French Polynesia, home to 200,000 people, gets 54 million francs (9.8 million dollars) in customs duties from the Ministry of Defense.

If those funds stop coming in, it would aggravate the local budget deficit at a time when the territorial government is asking Paris for more than 100 million francs (18.2 million dollars).

French Polynesia, home to 200,000 people, has no income tax. Rather, its fiscal system is based on customs and excise.

Besides supporting nuclear testing, the archipelago's only other major industry is tourism.

CEA director Bernard Pichotin has sought to play down the situation, saying that he intended to "gently manage the social problems that will come with the suspension of testing."

Those problems, he said, include "the reduction in hours worked by employees, and negotiations with the unions on early retirement measures."

The same appeal for calm came from High Commissioner Michel Jau, the top French official here, who said: "Polynesia is not yet in a post-CEP period."

"There should be no brutal consequences in the short term," he added.

Jau stressed that French Polynesia's elected officials "sit down together, with state authorities, so that concrete solutions can be found through dialogue."

But observers say it is far from certain that politicians can join forces around this economic issue, after at least two elected opposition members have linked the suspension of nuclear testing to the evolution of French Polynesia's institutions.

One of them, Emile Vernaude, in a communique, demanded that French Polynesia be given a deal similar to that spelled out for another French South Pacific territory, New Caledonia, in the Matignon Accords.

The accords, named after the French premier's residence in Paris, promise New Caledonia a referendum on self-determination in 1998.

Vernaudeau said he would like to see a five-to-10 year period to reorganize French Polynesia's institutions, culminating with "an institutional deadline that would be the objective of the final motivation of the population."

The other oppositionist, Oscar Temaru, a Polynesian nationalist who wants independence from France, said on local television Wednesday: "If the test halt is going to bolster France's prestige in the Pacific, it is nevertheless Polynesian independence that will make great strides."

That view is contested by the president of the territorial government, Gaston Flosse, who told a press conference that French Polynesia "lacks the means, on its own, to adopt a development plan over 10 years."

Such a plan, he said, must be carried out with France's participation.

Responding directly to Temaru, Flosse added that an end to nuclear testing did not mean a step towards independence, "but rather a step towards poverty and greater dependence vis a vis the state."

Flosse has said that a delegation of locally elected leaders should visit Paris to see top political leaders in a "concerted action to remind Paris of its "responsibilities."

New Zealand

Minister Views Effect of Japanese Market Fall

BK1004052292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0505 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Wellington, April 10 (AFP)—New Zealand would be affected by collapsing Japanese financial markets, Finance Minister Ruth Richardson said Friday.

Because Japan was New Zealand's second largest export market, the shake-out in its financial sector was a "matter which cannot help but reflect itself in terms of our own economy," she said.

She returned last week from an investment mission in Tokyo. She said the Japanese economy was inherently strong but its speculative bubble had burst.

"They put enormous store on a lot of speculative pressure that built up in their sharemarket. Now they are seeing an asset price correction."

Richardson said she talked with a wide range of business people and officials in Tokyo as the collapse in markets accelerated.

She noted a negative psychology in Japan, but most of those she met had said "give us 12 to 18 months, we are going through an adjustment phase."

There had so far been no signs of Japanese events pushing interest rates up here, she said.

However, there would inevitably be international influences and New Zealand would feel some effect in terms of its trading relationship with Japan.

Papua New Guinea

Government Recognizes Russia, Three Baltic States

BK0904075892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea [PNG] Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu says his government has formally recognized the Russian Federation and the three Baltic states of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia.

Mr. Namaliu said the government's recognition of the independent states is consistent with the realities that the whole world now accepts. He said PNG will delay opening a permanent mission in Moscow that was planned for this year until the situation in the former Soviet Union settles down. Mr. Namaliu says PNG will also defer fishing negotiations with Russia.

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